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Stepney Ch.
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THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN, STEPNEY. BY THE HON. WALTER C. PEPYS AND ERNEST GODMAN. BEING THE SIXTH MONOGRAPH OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SURVEY OF THE MEMORIALS OF GREATER LONDON.

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AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY C. R. ASHBEE, M.A. ON THE PRESERVATION OF ST. DUNSTAN'S, STEPNEY, AND THE NEED FOR THE BETTER SAFEGUARDING OF LOCAL REGISTERS & MONUMENTS.

IT gives me pleasure to write a few prefatory words to Mr. Pepys' valuable record of Stepney Church—the sixth of the Survey Committee's publications.

In previous cases we have had to deplore foolish and wanton destruction of beautiful things, as in the Great House, Leyton, the Palace of Bromley, &c.; here at least we may congratulate ourselves that even against the difficulties of a serious fire one of the great points of history in East London has been preserved for us. We owe this to the intelligent care of the Rector, Prebendary Dalton, and his architects.

We now have preserved in East London, in a fairly complete form, at least three of the landmarks of the old time villages of rural England, the Church of St. Dunstan, Stepney, St. Mary, Stratford atte Bow, and the Trinity Hospital, Mile End. If the work of the Committee serves no other purpose than that of pointing occasionally to how a thing can be well done, as it has been done here at St. Dunstan's, it will not have been for naught.

There are two lessons which may, I think, be brought home to the community in reviewing this work of saving and recording the Church. The need for greater care in the preservation of parish registers, & the need for some system whereby the family records, of which our London churches are the guardians, should be better protected.

To take the first. Had it not been for the fireproof safe in the vestry, the whole of the 250 volumes of the Registers—unique of their kind in number and completeness among London church records—would have been destroyed. I know of many cases in which these most valuable documents, often the chief data for local history, are kept in a slovenly & untidy manner by the incumbent. The clergy, in these matters, do not sufficiently look upon themselves as custodians of national tradition and history, one might almost say honour.

The fireproof safe is a very inexpensive detail; it is advised by the ecclesiastical authorities, but I think these have no power to compel incumbents to provide it. I remember the late Bishop Creighton—keen historian and fine Churchman that he was—expressing the greatest concern for the safety of these records, often in very doubtful custody. It is to be hoped that the fortunate saving of the Stepney registers may incline other incumbents who have not so far given sufficient thought to the preservation of registers, to exercise more care in regard to them.

The other matter, which on behalf of the Survey Committee I would like to touch on, is the need for some better record of London families. There is, as far as I know, no system or method by which the records of English families, much less London families, are being preserved. Sometimes their only memento is a stray tombstone, monument or inscription in a city church, or the church of what was once an outlying suburb, and is now swallowed up in the great city.

Were we sure that these stones or memorials were left untouched, we might leave their collation to the harmless antiquary of some later date, but it is always to be remembered that these historic records are subject to constant and aggressive attack from powerful bodies. The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, for instance, is a very estimable and admirable institution: it does a great deal of good work, and it is often right and fitting that dreary churchyards should be converted into pleasant playgrounds, but when such a conversion takes place the chances are that numberless records of ancient English families are done away with. More serious enemies still are the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, they who have church property under their special protection, and who appear frequently to conceive their trust as best fulfilled by the sale and realisation of what they have into cash. They are often inclined to treat their property as so much stock, in the phraseology of the business man, to be turned over as profitably as possible within a given period of time.

If any members of the Survey, or any who are interested in the preservation of English historic record, would, before it is too late, catalogue and classify (somewhat in the manner in which Mr. Pepys has treated the tombs in Stepney Church) all the ancient churches of London and the outlying suburbs within the region of the Survey, I think a very valuable piece of history would be accomplished; and I commend it to the readers of this book.

C. R. ASHBEE,
Chairman of the Survey Committee.

CHAPTER I. HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CHURCH AND PARISH.

The name of the Parish

THE ancient name of Stepney appears under several forms, the principal being: Stibenhede (in *Domesday*, 1080); Stebenheth (in *Taxatio Ecclesiastica*, 1291, and *Valor Ecclesiastic*, 1534); the rendering of which has been given as Stephen's hede or hyth—Stephen's landing place; and steb (*Saxon*, *stump*) hyth—or timber landing place. The latter appears the more probable solution.

The parish lies east of London, in the hundred of Ossulton, & formerly was of immense extent, including all London east of the City, south of Hackney, north of the Thames and west of the River Lea, except the district belonging to the Nunnery of St. Leonard's, Bromley. In 1311 Bishop Baldock granted a Chapel to the inhabitants of Bow* by reason of their distance from the parish Church, and the frequent floods in winter. In 1338 the district of Whitechapel, which had for some time possessed a Chapel-of-Ease—was also separated from the parish Church under a Rector appointed by the Rector of Stepney, and with the title of "St. Mary Matfelon."

Building of St. Mary's Chapel at Stratford Bow

Whitechapel

Stepney Marsh, now the "Isle of Dogs," also had a chapel dedicated to St. Mary. Strype's "Stow" quotes an allusion to it in the Bishop of London's Registry, date 15th century—

Chapel in the "Isle of Dogs"

"*Capella beatæ Mariæ in Marischo de Stepney.*"

Lysons (Vol. III., p. 468) states that a Gothic window in the ruins of this Chapel was only removed about 1792. Other portions of the building remained within the memory of persons still living, but have now disappeared.

Dedication of Stepney Church

The present Church is dedicated to St. Dunstan, who was Bishop of London 959-961, and then Archbishop of Canterbury until his death in 988. It would appear that, in its earlier days the dedication was different, as the following extracts show:

"Matthew Paris says that Stepney Church was rebuilt by St. Dunstan in the year 952; that the old church which Dunstan replaced was dedicated to All Saints; and that the new church erected by him was, after his death and canonisation, re-dedicated to him." †

Newcourt ‡ states: "This church of *Stepney* is dedicated to *St. Dunstan*,

* *Afterwards the parish Church of St. Mary, Stratford Bow. See the monograph on this building issued by the Survey Committee in* 1900.

† "*Guide to the Churches of London*," *by the Rev. C. Mackeson.*

‡ *Repertorium, Vol. I. p.* 737.

and (if I forget not) to *All-Saints* also, having somewhere read it, *Ecclesia Omnium Sanctorum Stepney*."

The Bishops of London were firmly established here as Lords of the Manor at the date of Domesday, 1080—

"*In Ossulston Hundred the Bishop of London William* (1051-75) *holds Sti-*
"*benhede for* 32 *hides . . . with all its profits. It is worth* 48 *pounds, and the*
"*same, when received in the time of King Edward* 50 *pounds. This Manor*
"*was, and is, belonging to the Bishopric.*" *

Bishop's Palace in Stepney

The Bishops possessed, & resided in, a palace in the parish, with a chapel attached, at Bethnal Green. They deserted this palace as a residence early in the 15th century, & the chapel, with messuage, was rented by Bishop Bonner in 1547 to Sir Ralph Warren for a term of 99 years at 4d. per annum (*Newcourt, Rep.*) The remains of this palace only disappeared in 1844 during the formation of Victoria Park. "Bonner's" & "Bishop's" roads in that district recall the site.

An inventory of ecclesiastical ornaments, bequeathed by Bishop Baldock to St. Paul's Cathedral, was taken at his Palace at "Stibbenheth" in 1313, and in 1382 there appears in the Account book of Bishop Braybrook's Clerk of the Household :—

"*Datum cuidam ludenti super le chekkar apud "Stebbenhith" de precepto domini IIIs.* (*M.S. St. Paul's Library, Max. Lyte's Catalogue, pp.* 58-119.)

In 1391 King Richard III. assigned Stepney as the London residence of his Chancellor the Archbishop of York. (Rymer's *Fædera, II.* 522.)

Chantries

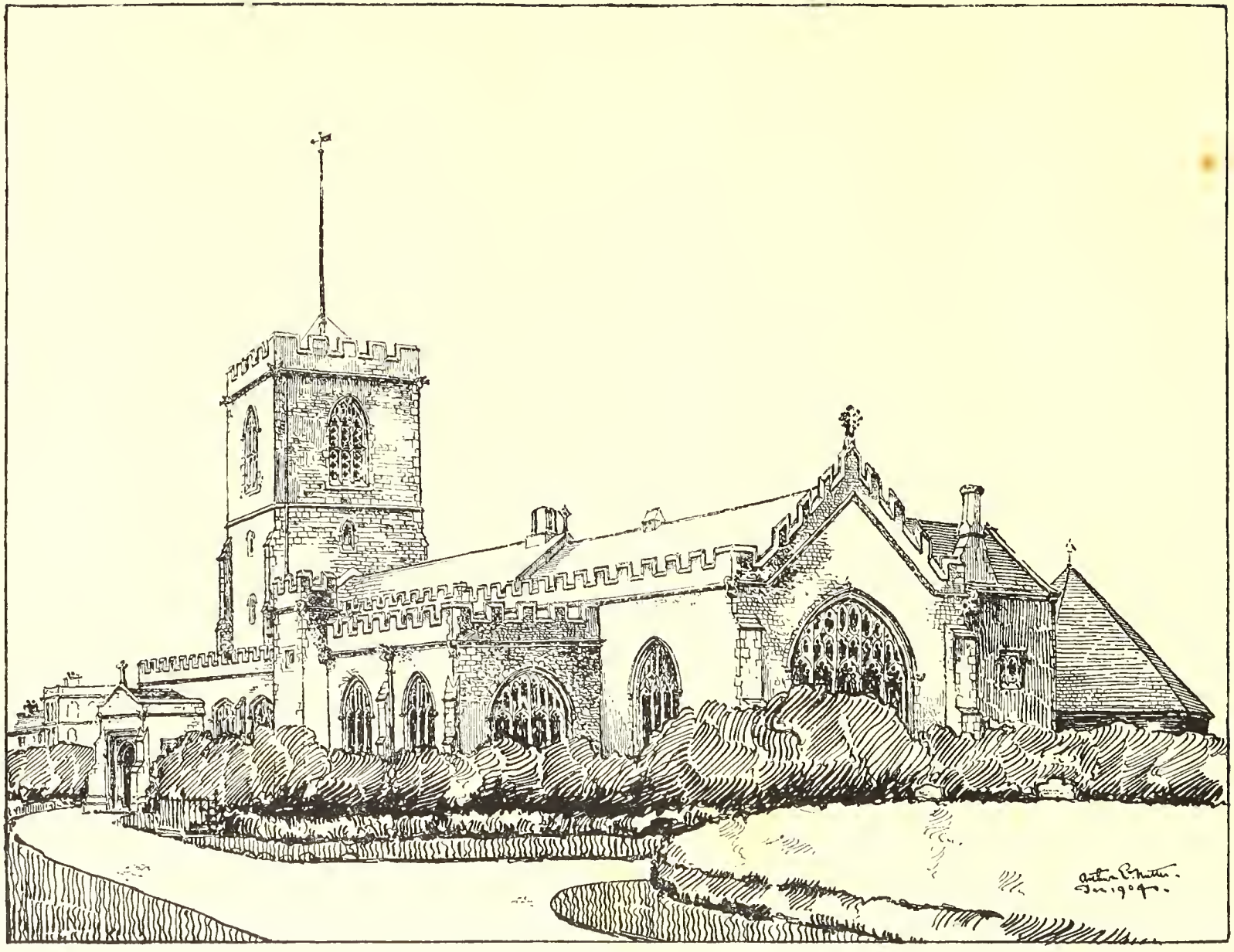
St. Dunstan's does not appear to have been richly endowed with Chantries, etc., the only entry in the Chantry Inventories (Record Office) being :

"*Stebunheth—Thomas Brett gave unto the said Churche to the intente to be*
"*prayd for for ever one tenement in perpetuity situate in Limehouse nowe in*
"*the tenure of John Phillips, who payeth for the same xxxiii s.* 4*d.*†

The Inventory of Church Vestments belonging to St. Dunstan's, taken in 1550, is not to be found. That of the Chapel-of-Ease at Stratford at Bow is forthcoming,‡ & is so rich that it enables one to conjecture what the mother church must have possessed.

The Church of Stepney was appropriated to the See of London in the

* *Domesday, ed. Sir H. James, London,* 1862.
† 1 *Edw. VI., Midd. Cert.* 34, *No.* 169.
‡ *Augm: Off: Miscell: Bk.* 498, *p.* 34. *Printed at length in Rev. W. H. Frere's "Two Centuries of Stepney History,"* 1892, *pp.* 23-25.



The Church from the South-east. *Arthur E. Nutter.*

PLATE I.

year 1380. Till the year 1544, the Bishops of London collated to the Rectory, which was a sinecure, & the Rectors were patrons of the Vicarage. From that time till the beginning of the present century the great tithes were impropriated, and the impropriators presented to both. Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, was lessee of the great tithes under the Rector, paying a reserved rent of £20 per annum. He had a grant also of the advowson for the next turn from Bishop Stokesly; his interest in both was granted upon his attainder to Sir Richard Williams, alias Cromwell, gentlemen of the Privy Chamber (an ancestor of Oliver Cromwell).
The Rectory and advowson having been given to Edward VI. with the manor by Bishop Ridley, were granted to Lord Wentworth, and continued in his family (except during the sequestration of the Earl of Cleveland's estates, when they appear to have been in the possession of Dame Frances Weld) till the year 1705: they were then alienated by the representatives of Philadelphia Lady Wentworth, to William Lord Montgomery, son of the Marquis of Powis, of whom they were purchased in 1708 by the principal and scholars of Brazen-nose College, in Oxford. The purchase was confirmed by Act of Parliament; and the great tithes having been annexed to the Vicarage (subject to an annual payment* to the College).† The benefices were united in 1710, & John Wright, the then Vicar, became sole Rector. The same Act appointed that after the death of the said John Wright the said Rectory was to be considered under the terms of two moieties, or Portions, of the said Rectory; in other words, that there should be two Rectors or "Portionists" of Stepney, to be entitled "Portionist of Ratcliff Stepney," and "Portionist of Spittlefields Stepney," respectively. They were to serve the Parish alternately—*i.e.*, one to perform the duties of the parish during the space of one month, and the other Portionist the succeeding month, & so on, in continual succession. This double arrangement went on until 1740, when the "Portionist of Ratcliff" was made first Rector of St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green; the other "Portionist" becoming the sole Rector of Stepney.

Division of Stepney into other parishes

Growth of population made necessary the establishment of nine separate parishes out of the original Stepney. The following list gives their dates of separation:

St. Paul's, Shadwell -	1669	St. John's, Wapping -	1694
St. Mary's, Whitechapel -	1673	Christ Church, Spitalfields	1729

* *Not more than £120, nor less than £20. The sum now paid is £40. (Lysons.) The 1889-90 Terrier, however, states the amount of the annual rent to the College to be £67.*

† *Lysons.*

St. George's in the East -	1729	St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green	1740
St. Mary's, Bow - -	1730	All Saints', Poplar - -	1820
St. Anne's, Limehouse -	1730		

(Newcourt's "Repertorium," Frere's "Memorials," Lewis' "Topographical Dictionary.")

In 1650 the following scheme for the sub-division of the Parish of Stepney was drawn up by the Parliamentary Commissioners (Parly. Survey, Lambeth) but was never carried out:

"That the parish Church of Stepney is of so vaste extent and so populous that the fourth part of the parishioners cannot come to their parish Church to heere. Which parish if conveniently divided would make four parishes set apart as followeth, viz.:—

The hamlett of Poplar and Blackwall to be one parish, there being a foundation already laid. The hamlett of Lymehouse to be another.

The third to be the whole hamlett of Ratcliffe, Shadwell, Wapping Wall, and to extend to Old Gravel Lane, taking in from thence all Ratcliffe highway towards Stepney, together with Myle End and Bednall Green, to belong to the mother church of Stepney. And a fourth to contayne Wentworth St. to Rose Lane, part of Petticoat Lane as formerly, with divers Allys there adjoining, belonging to Stepnye parish, and also Artillery Lane and all Spittlefields, Cock Lane, and Stepnye Rents by Shoreditch. All which wee have taken into serious consideration, and doe confidently believe, iff soe performed, yt may add much to the honour of God, the ffurther propagation of his worship and service, the generall benefitt of the parishioners, and the more effectuall provyding for the many poore thereof, according to the intent of the said Act of Parliament."

Valuation. The Rectory of Stepney was valued at £40 in the "Taxatio Ecclesa." of Pope Nicholas IV. 1291 (Brit. Mus.), and at 60 marks in 1372 (Harl. MS. 60).

In the Valor Eccles. 26 Hen. VIII. 1534 appears—

	£	s.	d.
Stebenheth - - - -	ciiij	xiij	
Marisc' de —— - - - -	xxj	vij	iij

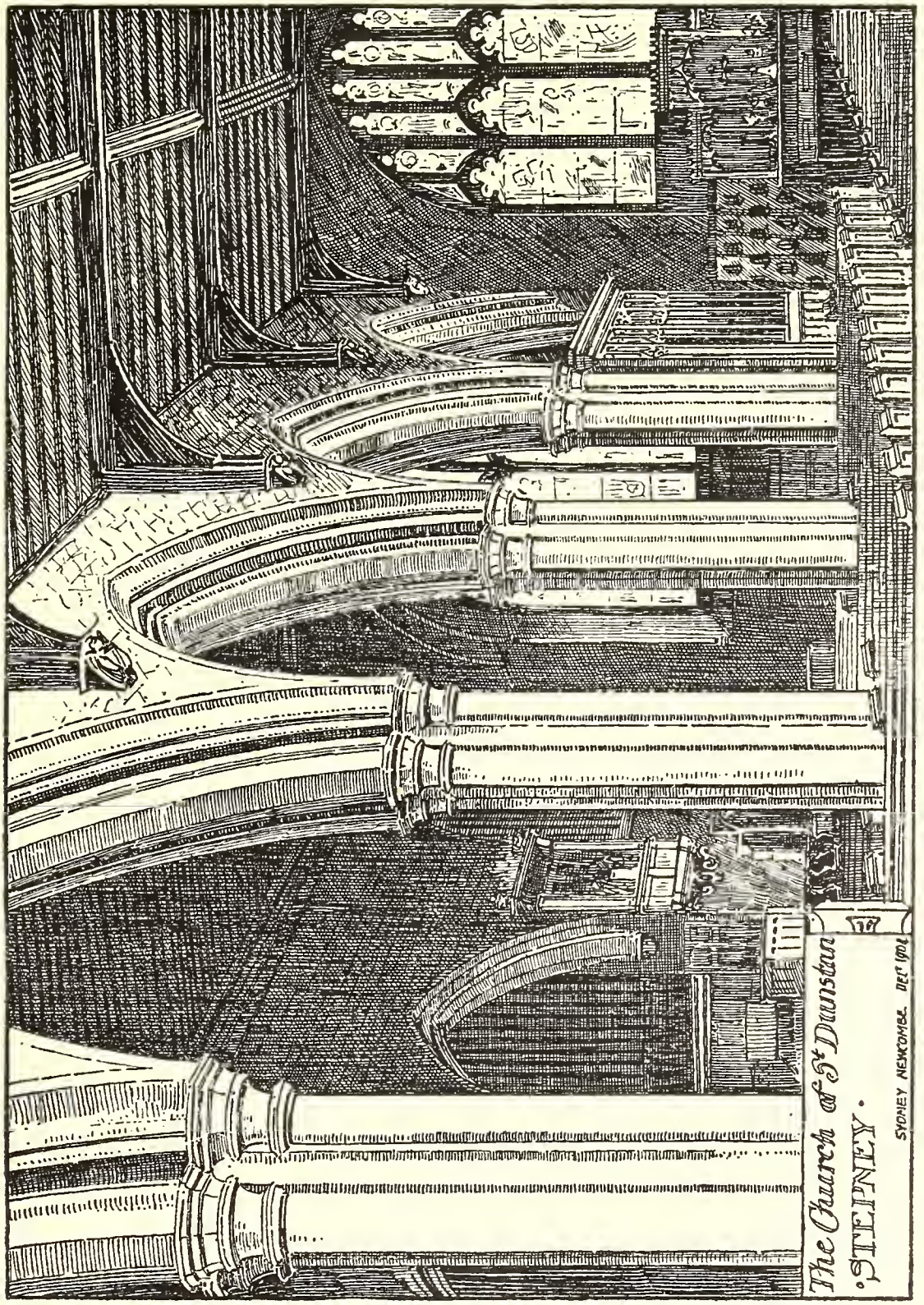
In the Chantry Roll 1 Edw. VI. 1547 (Record Office—Cert 34. No. 169) the Rectory etc. is valued as follows—

"There is of people now in the said pyshe the nomber of 13,000. Sir "Gabriel Donne is p'sone of the seid Churche, and his p'sonage is worthe "by yere £50—And that Sir Henry Moore is Vicar, and his Vicarage "is worthe by yere to him £33. 6. 8."

In the Lambeth Library MS. is an interesting notice of the value of Stepney taken at the time of the Commonwealth (1650)—

"We present that to the parish of Stepney aforesaid there is a Vicarage

PLATE 2.



Interior, looking East.

presentative, with cure of souls annexed. The parsonage is an impropriation. That the incumbent to the said Vicarage is Dr. Joshua Hoyle, who is come in by sequestration; the former incumbent was Mr. William Stampe. The parsonage impropriate was formerly the Earl of Cleveland's, and now belongeth to Dame Frances Weld. That the Vicarage of Stepney, now to be let, we believe would not yield above seventy-five pounds per annum without fine or incumber, the principal profits thereof arising from communicants who are customarily to pay threepence a head per annum for so many in every family as were conceived to be of full years to receive communion, whereof now there is but little paid. To the Vicarage there belongeth a house and orchard, but no other messuages, lands, or tenements; the tithes belonging thereunto are but small, being raised by sixpence a cow, and by cocks and hens a penny each, and such uncertain profits, as also by christenings, most of which are privately and at home by strangers, and the benefits lost, and likewise by burials, whereof a small share accrueth to the Vicar. The Vicar himself receiveth the profits to his own use, saving such profits which arise out of the hamlets of Poplar and Blackwall within the said parish, which, by order of this present Parliament, is given to the minister that officiates the cure at Stratford Bow, which profits amount to the value of thirty-two pounds per annum, Bow being a chapel of ease to the parish church of Stepney. That the Earl of Cleveland had formerly the presentation of the Vicarage, and now the Lady Weld, as is aforesaid. That there belongeth to the parish Church of Stepney one chapel of ease, situate at Bow aforesaid, and is a mile distant from the parish Church, and is supplied by Mr. Cann; the profits of that Chapel, as we conceive, ariseth out of six pounds thirteen shillings and fourpence, which was formerly paid out of the Exchequer, the duties aforementioned set apart out of Poplar and Blackwall by order of Parliament, and the rest benevolentiary by the inhabitants. We further conceive this Chapel fit to continue as it is, if it be not made a parish. That the parish Church of Stepney hath a very able, godly minister, Dr Joshua Hoyle."

The patronage of the Benefice was, by an order in Council dated 9th July 1864, transferred from Brasenose College, Oxford, to the Bishop of London.

	Gross.	Net.
The present valuation of the living is	£532	£360

The parish now consists of the 3 Hamlets—Ratcliffe, Mile End Old Town, and Mile End New Town—divided into several Church districts, the first of which was granted in 1837.

CHAPTER II. THE CHURCH AND ITS RESTORATIONS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH.

THE Church of St. Dunstan stands in the churchyard on the east of Stepney High Street. It consists of a clear-storied nave of five bays, with wide aisles, western tower, and a choir of two bays, with a presbytery without aisles projecting eastward. There are also vestries adjoining the presbytery on the north, and north and south porches to the nave.

There is no chancel arch, but the choir is sufficiently defined by the meeting of the open high-pitched roof of the nave with the nearly flat chancel ceiling between the fifth and sixth bays from the west, and the presence of stairs formerly leading to the destroyed rood loft (see plate 4.) The point is also marked on the north side by a heavier pier between the fifth and sixth arches.

The main alley of the church has a pitched roof covered with tiles, and is ceiled internally. The aisle roofs are flat and leaded.

Exterior Externally the church has been "restored" with such completeness that scarcely a vestige of old wrought stone work remains visible. The fabric is of various dates, but though the rubble walls in large part are probably much earlier, the bulk of the detail is coarse "Perpendicular" of various dates ranging through the fifteenth century. Of this period—naturally the most prolific in works of architecture—there are many features of similarity to those at St. Dunstan's in the neighbouring churches of Bow, West Ham, Barking, the old Tower of Hackney Church, and many others.

Interior The interior has recently been entirely denuded of plaster, and despite several interesting disclosures made in the process this is in many respects regrettable.

A chronological detailed description of the church being well-nigh impossible owing to the confusing effect of restorative zeal, perhaps the best course is to treat each feature in sequence from west to east.

Tower The Western tower is 92 feet high, and in its lowest stage opens to the nave by a "Perpendicular" arch. Above is the ringing loft, and again the clock chamber, reached by a stone newel stair in the north-west corner, which continues to the tower roof. The stair turret is wholly internal. The large belfry contains ten bells (see p. 51). The tower roof, within modern battlements, has a curious louvred arrangement, which seems to incorporate the base of a former lantern now destroyed.

In the "extra illustrated" copy of Lysons' *Environs of London* in the

Guildhall Library are three engravings of Stepney Church; two of these are dated 1795 and 1809 respectively, the other, apparently earlier, is undated. There is also an original drawing dated 1794. All these illustrations are in remarkable agreement, unusual in such cases, and each shows the tower roof surmounted by an octagonal cupola of pleasing design, 'ogee' in shape, apparently lead covered, and rising above an open arcaded stage standing upon a louvred base (the latter quite possiby that still existent and now hidden from view by the raised parapet). Surmounting the cupola is shown a gilded ball and vane terminating with a crown as finial.

Roofs

In the 1795 view the roof over the nave is shown to be covered with lead, the chancel has an additional roof—as at present—which is covered with tiles. But it is evident that the chancel roof was also leaded in the first case, and that it was of the usual 15th century character, the lead covering being laid on the rafters and boarding which now appear only as an inner ceiling over the chancel; for we read that at a meeting of the Vestry, held on April 1, 1656—

"*the Churchwardens and others findeing a dropping downe of Raine in severall places over the Chancell by which the people were disturbed and that there was feare of the decayeing and Rotting the Timbers in that Roofe to ye greate danger & damage of the people they did by themselues & Workemen take a vewe vpon the leads ouer the Chancell, which they found very defectiue, The charge of which (in case the Lead bee taken vpp and new cast) is estimated by the said Workemen att £45, otherwise to bee only layde with a new Crowne peece & the two Gutters new layde With sodering and Workemenshipp as itt now lyes will cost £18, And the Timber Worke not valued, The consideracon of this is left to the vestry.*"*

The matter was further considered at a meeting held on April 28th following, & the necessary works ordered, for which payment was authorized at a meeting in the following January. The exact nature of these works is not specified, but it may be that instead of the extensive repairs being made to the old lead flat, the additional roof, more steeply pitched and covered with tiles, was constructed. The chancel roof of the Chapel at Stratford Bow, which was of the same style and date, was treated in a similar manner about 1755.†

Nave

The nave aisles were, until the 1899 restoration, filled with galleries which have been removed; the present seating of the nave is largely made up of old oak panelling of various 18th century types.

* *Frere, Memorials, p.* 217.

† *See Monograph, 'The Church of St. Mary Stratford Bow.'* 1900.

Both the aisle walls have been raised, probably when the present flat roofs were constructed. The character of the masonry changes about two feet below the present wall plates—below, it is random rubble, but the upper portion is partly brickwork and coursed. Externally at this level there are traces of a string course. The south aisle roof has fine carved braces, and the two eastern bays of this aisle were remodelled in the early 15th century period, evidently to form a chantry chapel, the walls being either rebuilt or increased in height and the windows enlarged.

In the north aisle of the nave the windows are of three lights with depressed four-centred untraceried heads, splayed jambs, and segmental rear-arches. Those in the south aisle are three light segmental pointed, also without tracery, in square jambs with through-arches and hollow chamfer. The window in the west wall of this aisle has formerly been similar, but is now reduced.

The clear-storey has small, square-headed, two-light windows beneath segmental arches, & may be of "Decorated" date—Perpendicular clear-stories are generally larger. The nave is ceiled in oak with a flat four-centred barrel vault. Most of this is new, having been destroyed in the fire of 1901, together with the choir roof and organ.

Porches

The vaulted north and south porches are modern. The doorways, however, are good examples of fifteenth century date, and must always have been protected by porches of some description, being well preserved. Beside each is a stoup. A highly interesting Norman rood, now fixed on the north wall of the chancel (see plate 8 and description on p. 36), formerly surmounted the south door, and is shown on page 19.

In the engravings of the Guildhall 'Lysons' before-mentioned there are shown north and south porches to the nave, though these can scarcely be the original porches, as they are seemingly constructed of slight wooden framing with hipped roofs. The Norman rood shows clearly *above* the roof of the south porch. The drawing before referred to, entitled "Stepney before the alterations 1794," also shows the western porch. The northern and southern porches originally had glazed sides, for in the Vestry minutes, June 18, 1619—

"*It is ordered that the Porches one vpon the South side, the other vpon the North side, be repaired—the ffloores made euen, and paued and the glasse windows amended.*"

In a print in 'Maitland' 1755, and also in the view on page 19, the south porch is represented with glazed sides.

In 1610 a western porch beyond the tower was erected in the "Tuscan" style by Mr. Richard Phillips, churchwarden. It is represented in a print (no date) in 'Lysons' published in 1811, and no doubt was demo-

CHVRCH OF ST DVNSTAN · STEPNEY · MIDDLESEX ·

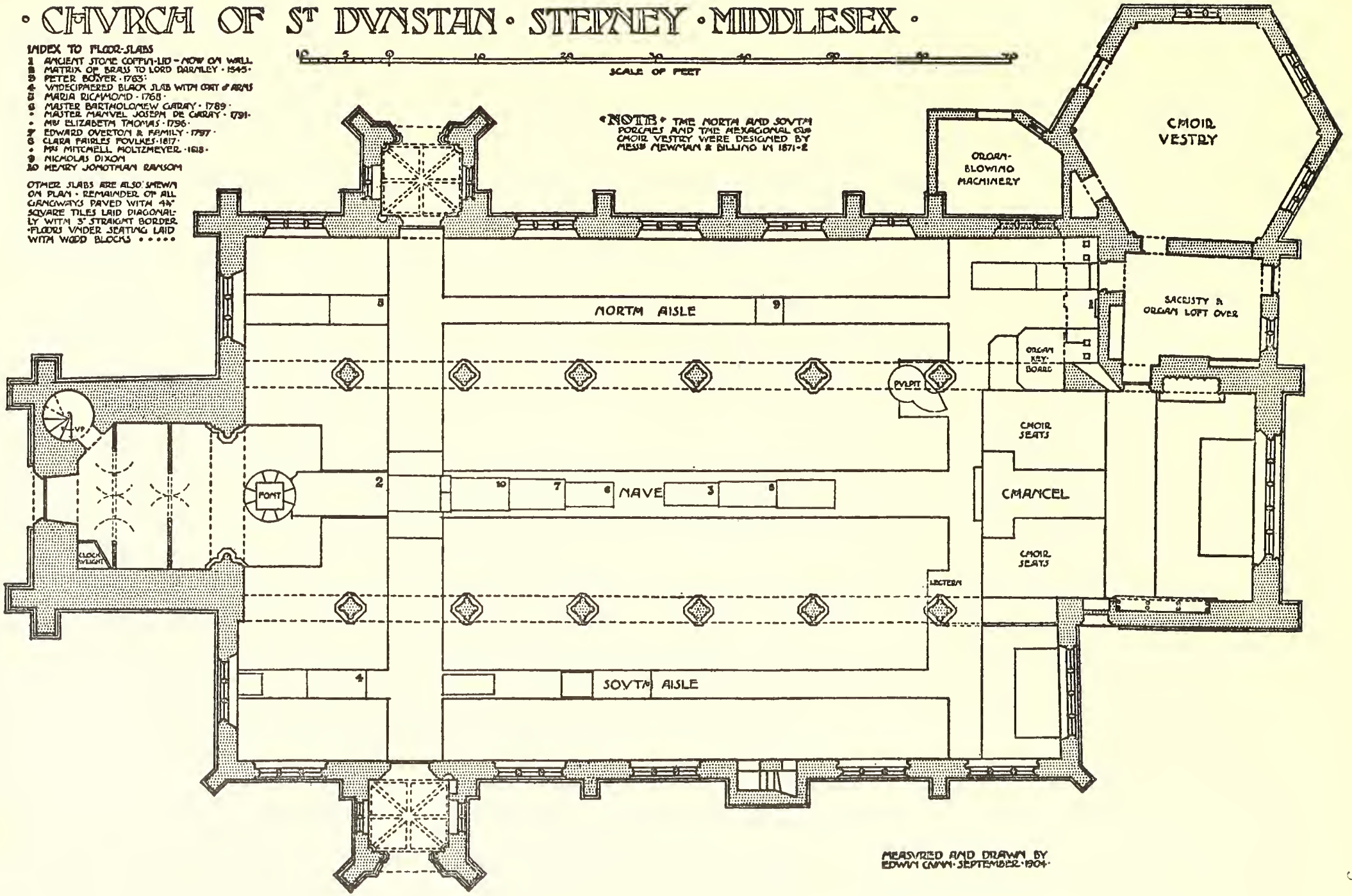

INDEX TO FLOOR-SLABS
1 ANCIENT STONE COFFIN-LID - NOW ON WALL
2 MATRIX OF BRASS TO LORD DARNLEY · 1545 ·
3 PETER BOVER · 1763 ·
4 WIDECIMERED BLACK SLAB WITH CRT & ARMS
5 MARIA RICHMOND · 1768 ·
6 MASTER BARTHOLOMEW GARAY · 1789 ·
· MASTER MANVEL JOSEPH DE GARAY · 1791 ·
· MRS ELIZABETH THOMAS · 1796 ·
7 EDWARD OVERTON & FAMILY · 1797 ·
8 CLARA FAIRLES FOULKES · 1817 ·
· MRS MITCHELL MOLTZMEYER · 1818 ·
9 NICHOLAS DIXON
10 HENRY JOHOTHAN RANSOM
OTHER SLABS ARE ALSO SHEWN ON PLAN · REMAINDER OF ALL GANGWAYS PAVED WITH 4½" SQVARE TILES LAID DIAGONALLY WITH 3" STRAIGHT BORDER · FLOORS VNDER SEATING LAID WITH WOOD BLOCKS · · · · ·
SCALE OF FEET
· NOTE · THE NORTH AND SOVTH PORCHES AND THE HEXAGONAL CHOIR VESTRY WERE DESIGNED BY MESSRS NEWMAN & BILLING IN 1871-2
ORGAN-BLOWING MACHINERY
CHOIR VESTRY
SACRISTY & ORGAN LOFT OVER
ORGAN KEY-BOARD
PVLPIT
NORTH AISLE
NAVE
SOVTH AISLE
CHANCEL
CHOIR SEATS
CHOIR SEATS
LECTERN
FONT
VP
CLOCK SKYLIGHT
MEASVRED AND DRAWN BY EDWIN CHAN · SEPTEMBER · 1904 ·

PLATE 3.

lished because it fitted so ill with the rest of the building. It never can have been required, the base of the tower forming every shelter requisite.

Choir

From wall to wall, passing in front of the fifth piers from the west, stood the ancient screen, the aisles continuing two bays beyond and forming chapels. In the south wall still remains the staircase giving access to the loft, and from thence to the roofs. This has been altered to serve the galleries, but the position and extent of the original openings are still visible. In the spandril between the two arches springing from the bulkier pier in the north arcade is a narrow arched opening from nave to aisle. A heavy beam with braces here provides a start for the lower ceiling of the choir and presbytery, and the two remaining bays of arcade are unclearstoried. The first arch eastward from this is depressed and of different outline to the remainder. Traces of a string course are noticeable some distance below the present roof, possibly marking the roof level of the 13th century church.

In the north aisle the second window from the east is the only one remaining in the church with curvilinear tracery. It is a two-light window with splayed jambs and simple flowing tracery of the 14th century or "Decorated" period.

The two choir bays of the south aisle are now fitted as a chapel and divided from the main alley by a screen. The roof here is slightly higher and the three windows have moulded jambs and pointed arches almost equilateral in proportion, filled with Perpendicular tracery. At the east end of the north aisle is a door leading to the vestries and a squint to the high altar discovered during a recent restoration. On the eastern respond is now placed the Norman rood before mentioned.

Presbytery

The north wall of the presbytery is pierced by the squint and by a door to the vestries, which was disclosed during the 1899 restoration (see plate 7).

East of this and to the north of the high altar is the tomb to Sir Henry Collet 1510. Above is an arched window opening containing part of the organ.

The east window of five lights with lean Perpendicular tracery is very broad and low in proportion. Its jamb shafts with their caps are of 14th century date, & indicate the presence of an earlier window in this space.

On the south wall are triple sedilia, "Early English" in style, but so exceedingly well preserved as to be objects of suspicion—an old print in the vestry shows these much mutilated. As a liberal coat of whitewash has recently been applied, it is impossible to see how much of the old work remains. The window above is of the date of the early 15th century alterations, it is shown in the view on page 19, but was restored during the last century.

There is no piscina, its usual position being usurped by the tomb, with

Greek Doric columns, to Benjamin Kenton. This was taken out by the Rector during the late restoration in the hope of discoveries, but as nothing was found it was replaced. West of the sedilia is a doorway now blocked and used as a cupboard.

Towards the top of the south wall of the presbytery and choir are traces of sharply-pointed arches at a higher level than the present. These would seem to be the rear-arches of earlier windows. Similar traces, not so well defined, exist in the north wall.

Vestries The vestries contain no work of architectural interest, but several good engravings and prints of the church in earlier times. Above is the organ loft. The organ destroyed in the recent fire had good Renaissance woodwork, some of which is preserved. In the gallery over the western entrance is also preserved a very fine oak poppy-head bench-end.

Modern Fittings The present ritual arrangement of the church as shown on the plan does not coincide with the original. There is no screen, and the choir seating occupies one bay of the true choir and part of the presbytery, the nave having encroached one bay on the choir. An oak pulpit is placed on the north side, against the first pier from the east, and the font at the west end of the nave before the tower arch.

CHURCH REPAIRS AND RESTORATIONS.

Early Restorations In the early days the expenses of church repairs were met by a "land-scot" upon acreage, and a rate upon houses in the parish.

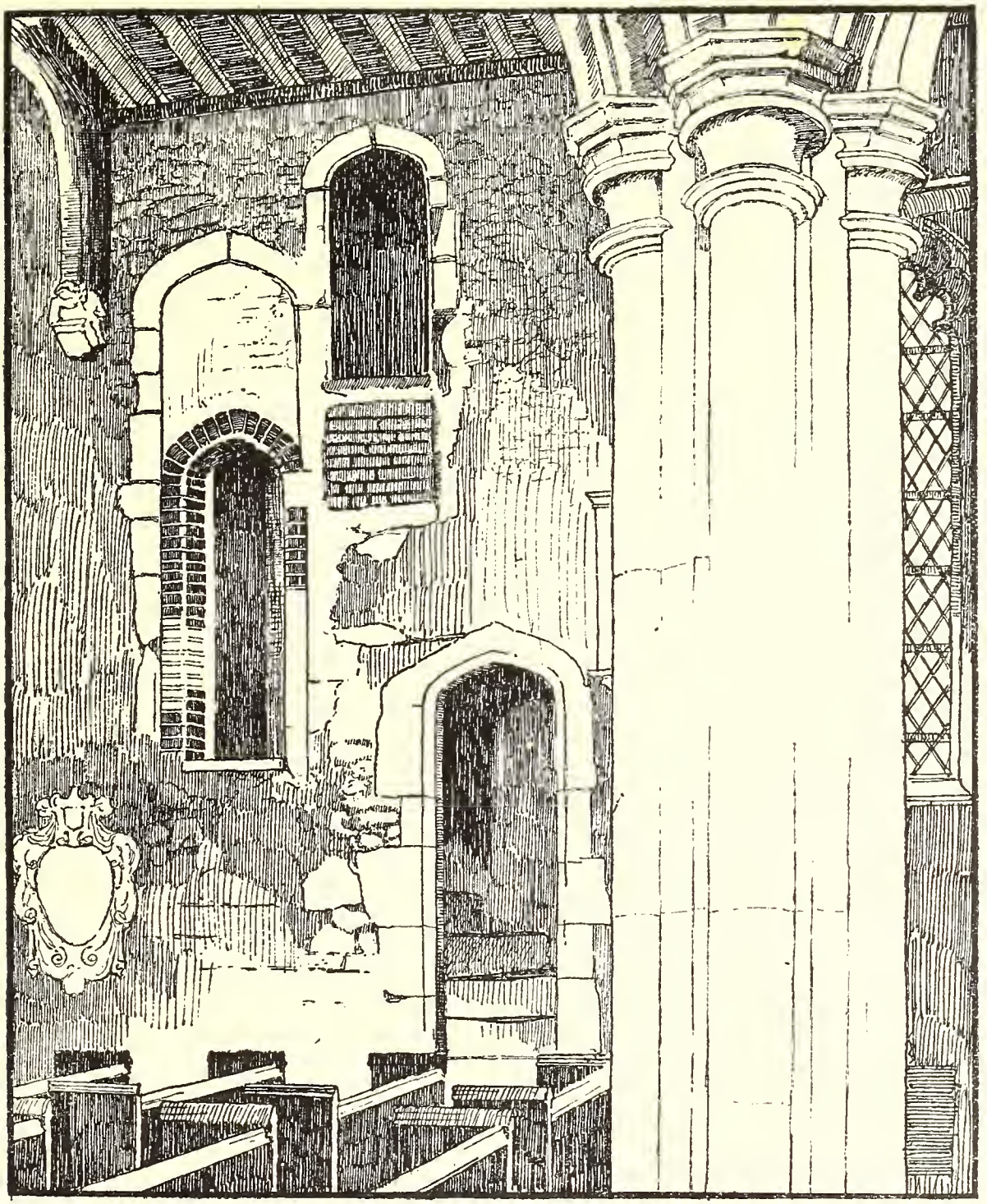
In this way extensive repairs were met in 1632, 1676, and 1684, when according to the vestry minute of November 18th, "There shall be a Levie made in the severall Hambletts of this Pīsh, amounting to the full summe of six hundred Pounds, for and towards the payment of the Debts of the Church, the new building the Vestry house, the new building two Church Porches, and other necessary Repairs of the Church.

And that the proportions in each Hamblett be as followeth, viz—

In Ratcliffe	-	One hundred and fifty Pounds.
In Limehouse	-	One hundred and fifty Pounds.
In Wapping	-	Seventy and five Pounds.
In Popler -	-	Seventy and five Pounds.
And in Mile End, Bethnall Green, Spittlefields		One hundred and Fifty Pounds.

And that the severall Levies be afterwards carried to the Chancellor of the Lord Bishop of London, to be confirmed accordingly."

The 1806 Restoration Again in 1734 £234 was raised for repairs. In 1806 "The Church was repaired both within side, and without, at the expense of at least £5000,



Stairs to Rood Loft,
South Aisle.

E. L. Wratten &
W. H. Godfrey.

on this occasion all the monuments were repaired, and the inscriptions restored with much care." (*Harleian MS. Vol. I.* 36). Unfortunately the vestry minutes of this date being lost, no details of this extensive restoration can be given.

The 1828 & 1846-8 *Restorations*

In 1828 the Church was "thoroughly repaired and beautified" (*Lewis' Topogr. Dict.*)

In 1846-8 a restoration was recorded in an inscription upon the window over the *east* end of the nave which was destroyed in the great fire of October 1901 and not replaced.

This restoration was begun in the incumbency of the Rev. Daniel Vawdrey, and finished in that of the Rev. Richard Lee. It was not however until 1852 that the accounts were settled; the total cost was £3610.

It was probably at this restoration that the east wall was refaced, unfortunately of brick instead of rubble, like the rest of the Church, and the galleries much reduced. A notice of this restoration occurs in the Rev. J. H. Sperling's *Church Walks in Middlesex*, 1849, together with architectural details of the fabric.

In the restoration of 1901 the east wall was refaced with rough stone to correspond with the remainder of the Church.

The 1871-2 *Restoration*

On the north wall at the west entrance is a brass, which records the restoration of the Church, and the erection of the porches and second vestry in 1871-2, during the incumbency of the Rev. J. Bardsley.

It was at this restoration that the whole of the Church was refaced, a new organ built, and the west window filled with stained glass.

The 1885-6 *Restoration*

At the restoration during the Rev. J. F. Kitto's incumbency (1885-6), in addition to cleaning and painting, the choir seats, a new pulpit and east window were added, the ground lowered all round the Church, and the main approach widened and deepened so as to bring it down to a level with the Church ; before that two steps led down to the west door.

The total expenditure was £3783.

The 1899 *Restoration*

The restoration of 1899, during the incumbency of the present rector, the Rev. A. E. Dalton, is commemorated on an inscribed brass tablet by the west door of the nave. The work included the removal of the galleries, stripping the plaster from the walls inside the Church, remodelling the seats, rebuilding the organ, rehanging the bells, and placing the altar in the south chapel, at a total cost of £5,600.

The 1901 *Fire*

The account of the great fire of October 1901 had better be given in the words of the Rector, as published by him in the Parish Report of 1901-2:

"October 12th, 1901, will be a day long remembered in Stepney. At 6.20 a.m. the alarm was given that the Church was on fire, and it was soon found that owing to the morning being very foggy, and the fire being at the east end, right away from the road, it had obtained a strong

hold ere it was discovered. How long it had been burning we shall never know. There was no smell of fire when the Church was closed at 9.30 the evening before. It originated from a gas jet in the stoke-hole under the vestry floor, that had been there for thirty years, within a foot of a wooden ceiling, which was protected only by a thin sheet of iron. Probably this had gradually worn thin, and the wood above it become more charred, till at last it ignited. Once through the vestry floor, the fire laid hold on the cupboards of cassocks and surplices, and within ten minutes of the alarm being given the flames were through the roof of the choir vestry. A wooden staircase carried them up to the organ chamber, which was a literal furnace before the first engine arrived, & thence the flames reached the roof, along which they raced with terrific speed. In a very few minutes 18 engines and 120 men of the Fire Brigade were on the spot, & though at first they feared the whole church was doomed, yet their energy and skill were equal to the task, and by cutting through the roof just before the fire reached the tower, they got it under control, and before 8 o'clock it was all out.

Of the vestries only the bare walls remained, their contents being entirely destroyed, except the plate and registers, which were preserved intact by their safes.

The organ was entirely gone, including the fine old front carved by Grinling Gibbons. Of the roof we have preserved only the main beam of the chancel arch, two out of the four big beams of the chancel, & the ten rafters next the tower. One bay of the north aisle roof was also destroyed. The altar was burnt owing to a portion of the organ falling upon it, and the choir stalls were considerably damaged by falling tiles, but otherwise the internal fittings were only damaged by smoke & water, thanks to the excellence of the old roof, none of which fell in.

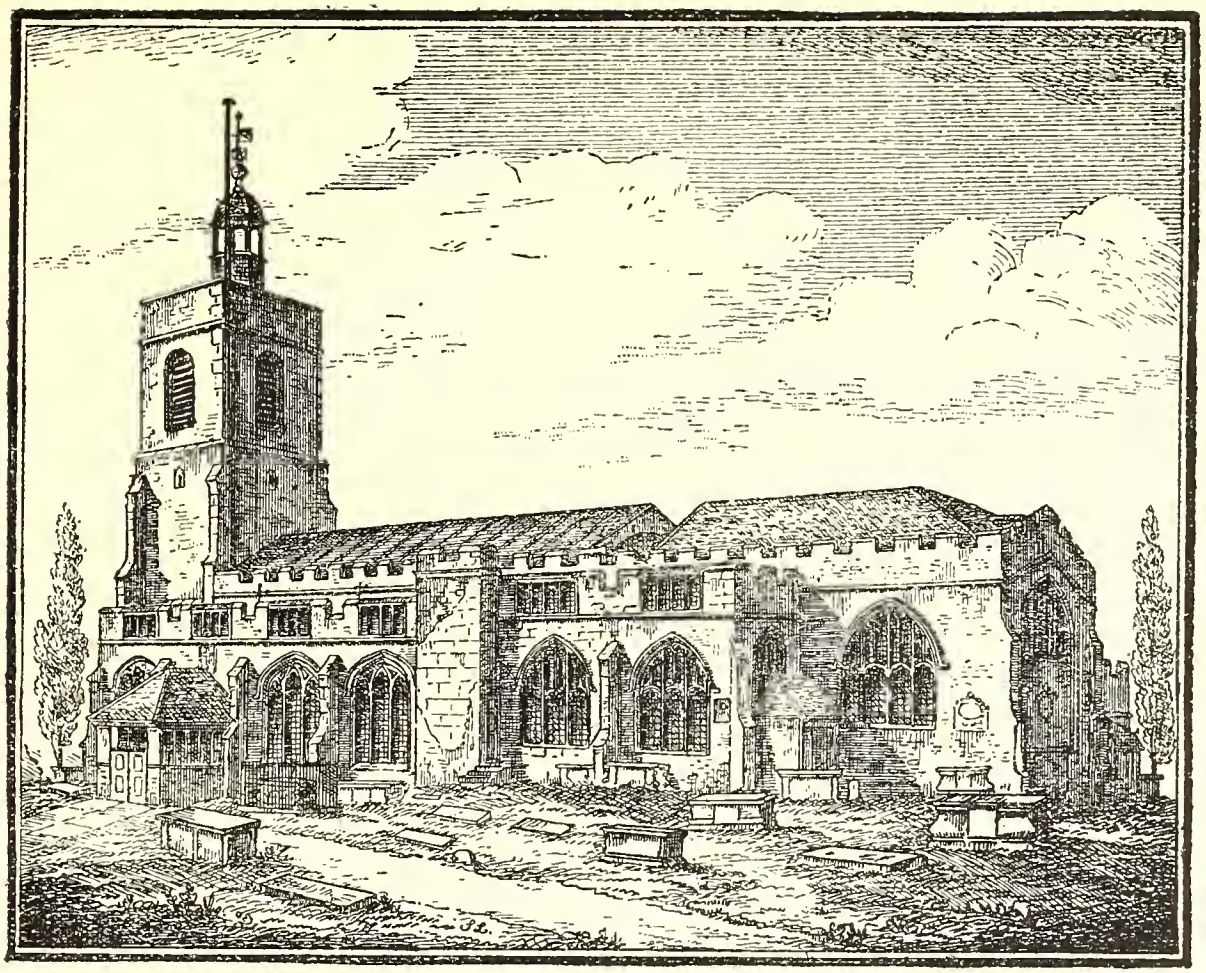
The east window was three-fourths destroyed, and two other of the stained glass windows considerably damaged."

The subsequent restoration

The repairs rendered necessary by this fire are also detailed in the following account by Mr. Dalton:

"We have endeavoured to replace everything as it was before the fire, putting the roof back timber by timber in good English oak, only boarding it with oak instead of the deal of comparatively recent date. This and the new vestry doors have all been cut from the unburnt portions of the old oak timbers. The timbers of the roof, which were not touched in the restoration of 1899, were found to be very rotten, & before many years much repair must have been undertaken. Thus two corbels, each 12 × 15 inches, on which the centre beam of the nave roof rested, and which had been bedded 12 inches into the wall, were so completely rotten that not two inches of them remained. Now we have a roof sound

Interior of Chancel,
after the Fire.



Stepney Church in 1795.

and solid (the new chancel beams weighed two tons each) & one which we hope may last for another 400 years."
A new altar was provided, and the choir seats restored in the places injured by fire.
The east and south windows in the chancel, and the east window of the north aisle, were replaced.
The two vestries were entirely re-roofed, and fitted with oak and pitch-pine presses.
A new organ was supplied by Messrs. Norman & Beard.
The Church was also fitted with electric light.
This was all carried out at a cost of over £7000—a considerable portion of which large sum (£5156. 12s. 3d.) was covered by insurance.
The Church was reopened on the 6th October 1902 by the Bishop of Stepney.

CHAPTER III. MONUMENTS IN THE CHURCH.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that St. Dunstan's Church appears to have suffered more, to judge by various records, than many of its neighbours in matters of spoliation or neglect of its monuments, there are still many preserved on the walls inside the Church: some are of considerable artistic merit, and not a few commemorate persons who became famous in the history of their times. In one, the monument to Dame Rebecca Berry, there is a wealth of local tradition owing to the fact that the arms on the sinister side of the shield bear, among other charges, a fish and ring (*annulet*); the monument has therefore been connected with the picturesque "fish and ring" legend, which appears, with slight variations, in many parts of the country.

The interior Church was formerly much richer in memorials than now; two are given from Weever (*Fun. Mon.*) on pp. 35-36; Norden (*Speculum Brittaniæ*, 1593) mentions William Chaldnam and Ioan his wife, 1484, "in the north ile," and Lady Anne Wentworth, 1571. Twenty-three monuments, which no longer exist, are also mentioned in Strype's edition of Stow (1720).

The following extract from Gough's *Sepulchral Monuments*, 1786, *Vol. II. Part II. Page cccxxiv.* accounts for a great deal of this destruction both in Church and Churchyard :—

"How laudably attentive the Church Wardens of parish Churches among us are, will appear from the following Advertisement :—

'Whereas there are many monuments, tombs and vaults in the Church and Chancel of St. Dunstan's Stepney, in a ruinous state, and many flat and headstones broken and sunk, or buried in the s^d^ Churchyard, and the s^d^ Churchyard from the great number of burials therein has become uneven, and in great need of a reform: The Church Wardens of the s^d^ Parish hereby give notice that all and every person or persons interested in any monument, vault, or flatstone in the s^d^ Church, or monument, tomb with flat or headstone in the s^d^ Churchyard, & who wish to preserve & perpetuate the same, that unless they apply to the Church Wardens, or any of them, on or before the first of January next, & agree to perform or pay for such repairs and replacing as are respectively necessary to such monuments, tombs, vaults, head and flatstones—that the same shall be removed without further notice, and that no grave in the s^d^ Churchyard will for the future be suffered to be raised above the surface of the ground.

Thomas Taylor	Ch. Warden		Radcliffe.
John Williams	,,	,,	Poplar & Blackwall.
Matthias Kitchen	,,	,,	M. E. Old Town.
William Cox	,,	,,	M. E. New Town.'"

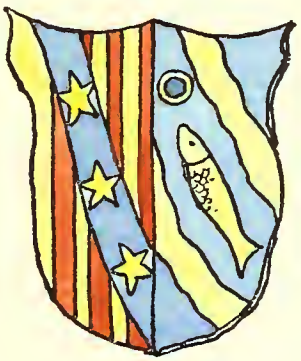
The Vestry Minutes from 1777 to 1821 having been lost, the exact date of the above advertisement cannot be ascertained through the names of the Churchwardens, but probably it was about the time of the publication by Gough, viz., 1786.

The inscriptions on the monuments, together with the heraldry, have been carefully copied, and are given below: the order in which they have been taken is beginning at the west end of the south aisle and proceeding eastward, returning from the chancel along the north aisle. It will be observed that the present position of some of the monuments does not agree with that given by the older authorities, because many of them were removed to their present places at the last restoration. Reference will also be found, on page 17 to the "beautifying" of the monuments during the restoration of the church, and it is to be feared that the original tinctures have in many cases been varied in the repainting of the shields. In an extra-illustrated copy of Lyson's *Environs of London* preserved in the Guildhall Library, many of these shields are described or illustrated, and when any reference to "Lysons" is made in the case of variations, it is this particular copy that is referred to.

NO. 1. EMMA RIVINGTON, 1852.

A white marble tablet, with an inscription only, in memory of Emma Rivington, her husband Michael R. junior, of Bombay, and her father Edward Thornhill of Upper Clapton.

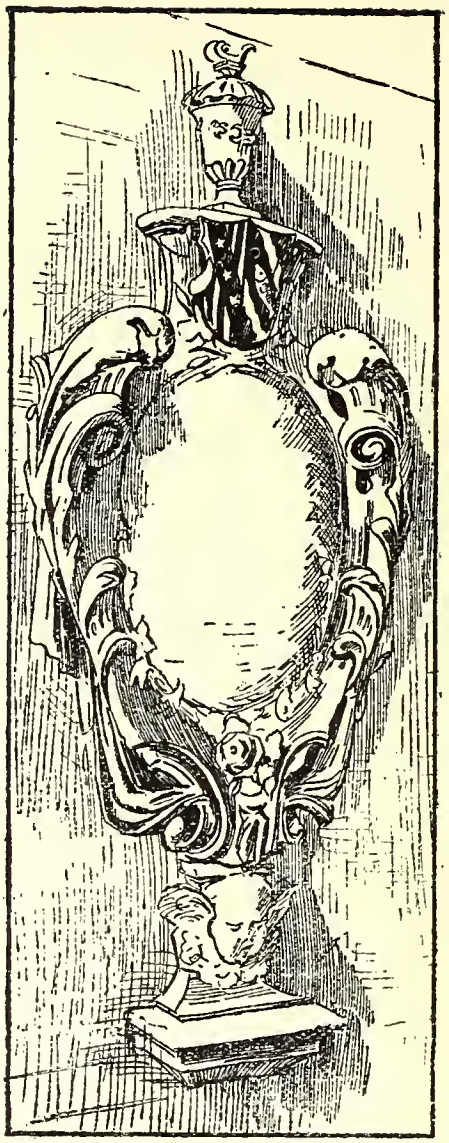
NO. 2. DAME REBECCA BERRY, 1606.



This monument is in the form of a large shield, of stone, supported on a small bracket bearing a cherub's head. Above, it is surmounted by a coat of arms: *Paly of* 6 *or and gu., on a bend az.* 3 *mullets or*—Elton, impaling *az. a fish or, and in the dexter chief point an annulet, between two bends wavy, of the last.* Over all is an urn and a gilded lamp with the oil burning. The shield is in its heraldic colours, and the urn and shield are slightly gilt. Otherwise the stone (or unpolished marble) is left untouched, the black sunk lettering of the inscription filling the whole centre.

HERE LIETH INTERR'D THE BODY OF
DAME REBECCA BERRY, WIFE OF
THOMAS ELTON OF STRATFORD BOW, GENT.
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE, APRIL 26 1606
AGED 52

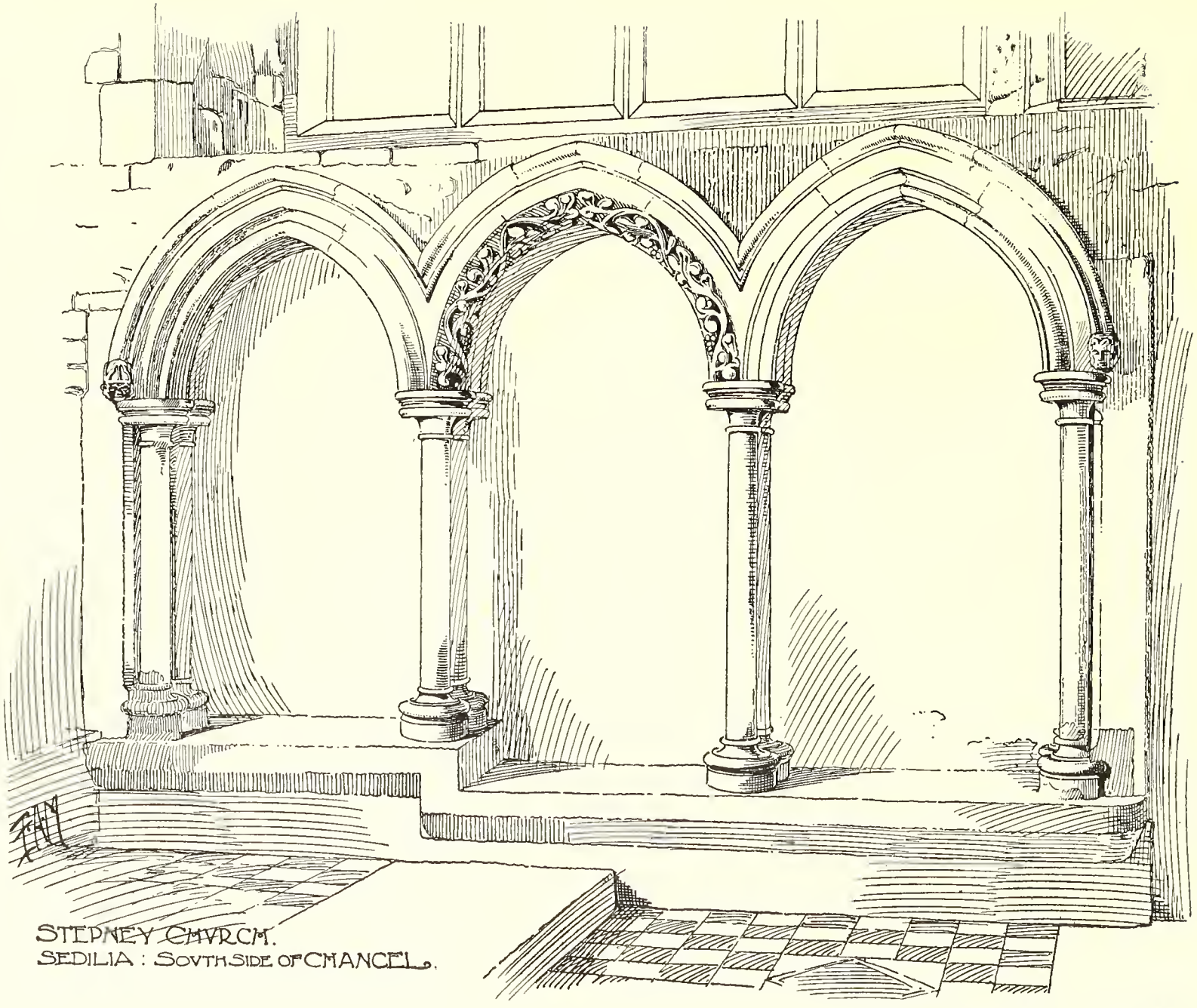
Come, Ladies, you that would appear
Like angels fair, come dress you here.
Come dress you at this marble stone,
And make that humble grace your own
Which once adorn'd as fair a mind
As e'er yet lodg'd in womankind.
So she was dress'd whose humble life
Was free from pride, was free from strife,
Free from all envious brauls and jarrs
Of human life, the cival wars,
These ne'er disturbed her peaceful mind.
Which still was gentle, still was kind.
Her very looks, her garb, her mein
Disclosed the humble soul within.
Trace her through every scene of life,
View her as Widow, Virgin, Wife,
Still the same humble She appears
The same in youth, the same in years,
The same in low and high estate
Ne'er vext with this, ne'er mov'd with that
So Ladies now, and if you'd be
As fair, as great, as good as she
Go learn of her humility.



Dame Berry's Monument.

This tablet was originally upon the exterior of the East Wall, and there appears in a print in "Lysons" date 1809. When it was removed to its present position is uncertain. It is known as "The Fish and the Ring" monument and has received perhaps more notice than it deserves, from the idea that the lady, whose virtues are recorded upon it, was the heroine of the common legend describing the loss of a ring, & its marvellous recovery from the inside of a fish. The legend appears in many places and many forms, and probably was only connected with Dame Berry from the Coat of Arms on the monument, which contains a fish and a ring.

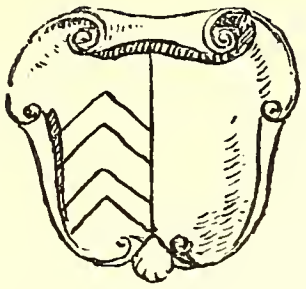
Her first husband was the distinguished Admiral Sir J. Berry, whose monument is in the N. Aisle.

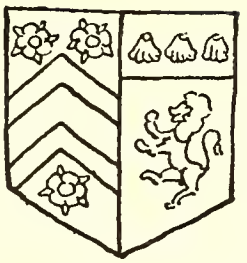


Drawn by Ernest A. Mann.

PLATE 6.

NO. 3. ALEX. WELLER, 1734.

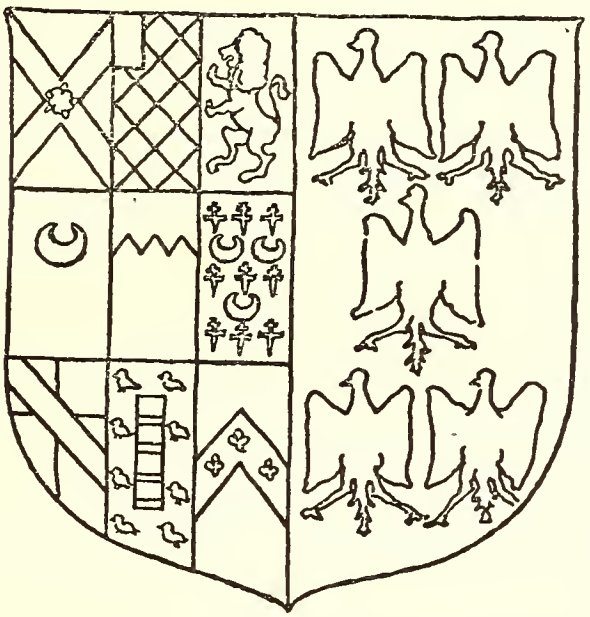




The next, a white marble shield of similar size, around which carved drapery is shown. Below are crossed palm branches and above a coat of arms of which the bearings are almost obscured. According to Lysons they are as follows: Sa., 2 chevronels between 3 roses arg., impaling arg., a lion rampant gu., on a chief sa. 3 escallops arg. The inscription states that the body is interred "near the enterance of the western porch of this church."

Burial register.—Nov. 18, 1734. *Alexander Weller of Old Artillery Ground.*

NO. 4. JANE NEVILL, LADY DETHICK. 1606.



An elaborate wall-monument to Jane Nevill, Lady Dethick, occupies the central position on the south wall. It is of marble, the mouldings gilded, and consists of a central arch over the inscription, on each side of which two detached columns of black marble support a small projecting cornice, which overshadows the whole. Two gilded brackets are placed under the columns, & between them is a small panel with the name of the executor who erected the monument. The central inscription is in bold capitals and is given below. Above the caps of the columns, which are gilded and ornamented with egg-and-dart carving, is a gilt rose.

A coat of arms stands in a circle over the cornice, but (according to Lysons) they are not the arms of Lady Dethick, for she was a Duncomb of Buckinghamshire. She married as her second husband Alex. Nevill, Esq. The arms, according to Lysons, are: Quarterly of nine—

1. *gu., on a saltire arg., a rose of the field.*	Nevill.
2. *Fretty or and gu., on a canton erm. a ship sa.*	Nevill (ancient).
3. *Gu. billety or, a lion rampant of the last.*	Bulmer.

4. *Ermine (a crescent gu).** — Eudo, Earl of Brittany.
5. *Or, a chief indented az.* — Middleham.
6. *Az. 3 crescents and semée of cross crosslets arg.* — Glanville.
7. *Quarterly or and gu., a bend sa.* — Clavering.
8. *Az. an escutcheon (barry of 4 arg. & gu.),* within an orle of martlets arg.* — Walcot.
9. *Arg., on a chevron gu., 3 fleur-de-lys or.* — Pever.

Impaling *Or, 5 eagles displayed in saltire, sa.*

The inscription is as follows:

SACRÆ MEMORIÆ IANÆ NEVILLÆ DOMINÆ DETHECK MATRONÆ RELIGIOSISSIMÆ MODESTISSIMÆ: OMNIBUS QUA CORPORIS, QUA ANIMI (DUM VIXIT) DOTIBVS ORNA TISSIMÆ: JESU CHRISTI SERVÆ DEVOTISSIMÆ: CONIVGI SVÆ FIDELISSIMÆ: AMANTISSIMÆ QUA CUM VIGINTI FERE DVOS ANNOS FELICISSIME TRANSEGERAT; ALEXANDER NEVILLUS ARMIGER, HOC NUNQUAM INTER MORITVRI AMORIS SUI MONVMENTVM FIERI TESTAMENTO CURAVIT. POSTQUAM ANNOS FERE SEXAGINTA NOVEM VIXERAT, VICESIMO NONO NOVEMBRIS 1606 PLACIDISSIME IN DOMINO OBDORMIVIT

TOBIAH WORTHINGTON, ALEXANDRO NEVILLO EX TESTAMENTO SOLUS EXECUTOR; IPSIUS MANDATO HOC MONUMENTUM POSUIT

Burial Register.—Dec. 1606. Jane Lady Detheck, als Garter, wife to the Worshipful Alexander Neville of Poplar, Esquire, buryed the first day of December.

NO. 5. REV. HENRY LECHE, 1742.

A plain white marble slab projecting slightly beyond two fluted pilasters which support it on each side, bears the inscription: "In memory of Henry Leche, clerk, late Rector of this Parish, who died June ye 15th, 1742." Below, two entwined branches are carved beneath a skull, & over the slab is the coat of arms and crest, coloured and gilt. Arms:—Erm., on a chief indented gu. three crowns or.

Burial Register. — June 18, 1742. Rev. Mr. Henry Leche, Rector of this Parish—buried in the Chancel.

* *These are not given by Lysons.*

NO. 6. THE "CARTHAGE STONE."

Beneath the last is a plain rectangular stone slab, containing the following inscription :

OF CARTHAGE WALL I WAS A STONE
OH MORTALS VIEW WITH PITY
TIME CONSUMES ALL, IT SPARETH NONE
MAN, MOUNTAIN, TOWN, NOR CITY
THEREFORE, OH MORTALS NOW BETHINK
YOU WHEREUNTO YOU MUST
SINCE NOW SUCH STATELY BUILDINGS
LIE BURIED IN THE DUST
THOMAS HUGHES. 1663.

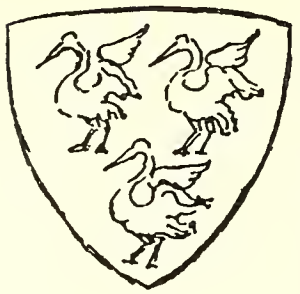
This stone was, until the last restoration of the Church, fixed upon the inside of the north wall of the tower and is mentioned as being there in "Gough's Topography" 1843.

NO. 7. CAPT. NATHANIEL OWEN, 1708.

A marble shield, draped, with two cherubs' heads at the top corners and a skull below, in memory of Capt. Nathaniel Owen, ob. Feb. 2, 1708, his first wife Mary, ob. Aug. 6, 1685, & second wife Bridget, ob. 16 March, 1709. Above is carved the coat of arms, uncoloured, but according to Lysons—*Arg., a lion rampant sa. a canton of the second*, impaling *az., a fesse embattled erm. between 3 cockatrices' heads erased.*

Burial Register.—1685. *Aug* 6. *Mary wife of Capt Nathaniel Owen of Mileend mariner*
1707 *Feb* 9. *Nathaniel Owen, Mileend, Gent.*
1709 *Mar* 23. *Bridget Owen of Mileend, Widdow.*

NO. 8. NICHOLAS GIBSON, OB. 1510.



A Brass Tablet dated 1900, bearing a shield with the arms *Az.* 3 *cranes*, and inscribed To the memory of Nicholas Gibson, Sheriff of London, and Avis his wife, who founded A.D. 1538 The Coopers' Company's Grammar School at Ratcliffe, this brass was erected A.D. 1900 in grateful appreciation by the Association of Old Coopers' School Boys. They lie buried in the Chancel of this Church.

"Now mercifull Iesu, which hast assysted owre intent
Have mercy on owre sowles, and as for the residew
If it be thy will, thou mayst owre act continew"

In Strype's *Stow*, 1720, is the following account of a monument to N. Gibson, which is stated to have stood on the S. side of the Chancel.

HEREUNDER LIETH BURIED NICHOLAS
GIBSON, CITIZEN AND GROCER OF
LONDON, AND AVIS HIS WIFE
WHO WERE FOUNDERS OF THE FREE
SCHOOLS AT RATCLIFFE, AND AFTER SHE
MARRIED WITH SIR ANTHONY KNEVIT
KNIGHT, WHICH LIETH HERE BURIED ALSO
WHICH NICHOLAS DIED THE XXIIJ OF
SEPTEMBER 1510. AND THE SAID LADY AVIS
ALSO DIED THE THIRD DAY OF OCTOBER 1514
WHOSE SOULS JESU PARDON.

"Weever" has the following inscriptions upon this monument:

Here was I borne, and here I make myne end
Though I was Citizen and Grocer of London,
And to that office of Schrevalty did ascend;
But things transitorie passe and vanische sone,
To God be geeuen thanks if that I have ought done.
That to his honowre, and to the bringing vp of youth,
And to the succoure of the age; for sewerly this is soth.
By Avise my wyff children were left me non
Which we both did take as God had it sent;
And fixed our myndes that ioyntly in on,
To releeue the poore by mutual consent.
Now mercifull Iesu which hast assysted owre intent,
Have mercy on owre sowles, and as for the residew,
If it be thy will thou mayst owre act continew.

Upon the same marble these verses following:

The five and twentyth day of this monyth of Septembyr,
And of owre Lord God the fifteenth hundred and fowrty yeere,
Master Nicholas Gibson dyde as this tombe doth remembyr,
Whose wyff aftyr married the worschyful esquier,
Master William Kneuet, one of the Kings privy chamber,
Much for his time also did he endeuer
To make this act to continew for euer.

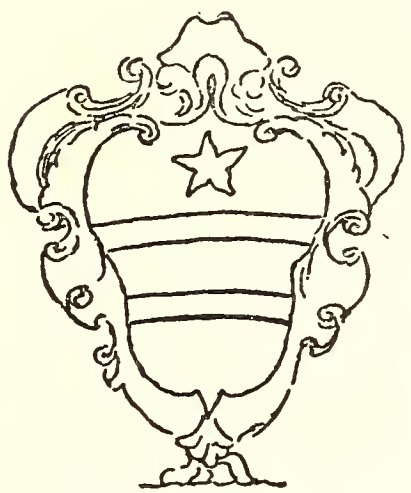
"This pious act here mentioned in this epitaph, is a free school founded at Radcliff in this parish, by the said Nicholas and Avise for the instruction of threescore poor men's children, by a schoolmaster and an usher, with an almshouse, for fourteen poor aged persons; and this foundation continues to this day" (*Weever*). Both the almshouses and school were demolished about eight years since, and the inscribed tablets and stones from the buildings were obtained by the Survey Committee and presented to the London County Council, to be preserved in the Council's museum of London antiquities.

NO. 9. REV. GEO. HARPER, D.D., 1815.

The next memorial is a stone sarcophagus represented with pilasters each side and natural foliage. Above, a pediment in which a gilt shield shows no arms visible. It is surrounded by a carved wreath of flowers.

Burial register.—June 2, 1815. *Revd. George Harper, D.D., Rector, age* 54. *N.B. Obiit 26th* ½ 10 *p.m. Vale, oh Amice, Vale.*

NO. 10. DR. BLONDEL, 1734.



Beneath the last is a plain marble slab bearing the name of Jacobi Augusti Blondel, M.D., and a long inscription. Two flat fluted pilasters stand each side, and over a small cornice is the coat of arms with a lamp each side, the flames of which are gilt. Arms: *az.*, 2 *bars and in chief a mullet or.*

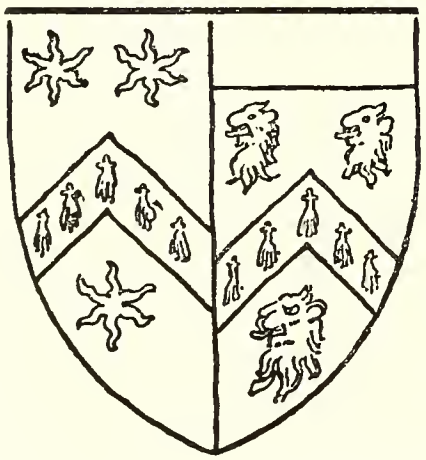
Burial Register.—Oct. 10, 1734. *Dr. James Augustus Blondel, of Rat: Physician.*

NO. 11. LIEUTENANT HAROLD CHARRINGTON, R.N., 1882.

"To the Glory of God and in Memory of Lieutenant Harold Charrington, R.N., second son of Spencer Charrington, Esq., of this Parish, who was killed by Arabs in the Desert of Mount Sinai on August 11th 1882 —This and the adjoining windows* are dedicated by Friends of the Family."

MONUMENTS IN THE CHANCEL.

NO. 12. THOMASINE BREWSTER, 1596.



On the South wall is a dark marble slab into which are let two brasses, the one below bearing an inscription to the wife of John Brewster, Esq. 1596. The one above bears the coat of arms *a chevron erm. between 3 estoiles*, impaling *a chevron erm. between 3 lion's heads erased, and a chief bearing no charges*. The inscription is as follows:

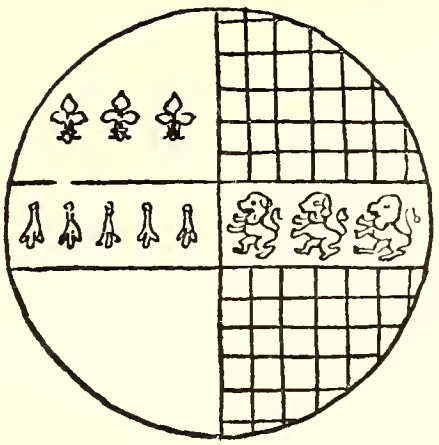
HERE LYETH THE WIFE OF JOHN BREWSTER ESQ
WHOS HEAVENLIE DEATH DECLARS HER HAPPY
LYFE
FAME SAYE THY WORSTE OF HER I THE DESIRE
AND THOV MUST BLASE HER FOR A GODLY WYFE
OF RICH & POORE THOV KNOWEST, BELOVED WAS SHE
SPEAKE THOV THERFORE, THE REST OF HER FOR ME
I SAYE NOE MOORE, HER NAME WAS THOMASINE
TO WHOM NO DOUBPT THE LORD FORGAVE HER SINE
NOW BLESSED IS ALMIGHTIE GOD THEREFORE
AND PRAYSED BE HIS NAME FOR EVERMORE
OBIIT ANNOS ETATIS SUE 46.
ANNOQ DNI 1596

John Brewster was Secondary of the Fines Office, and appears in the Vestry Minutes as Auditor for Poplar 1589-91. He sat on the Vestries of 1589 and 1594, but then is entered as "gone." He married first, Thomasine, d. of John Piers, and second Elizth. d. of R. Thornhill, and widow of Sir James Deane—his pedigree, and an account of the funeral of his second wife are to be seen (Brit. Mus. Add. MS. 14417. f. 5).

Burial Register—September 1596. Tomazin, wife of Mr John Brewster of Popler Esquier buryed the XIX day. a monument is set in the Chancell.

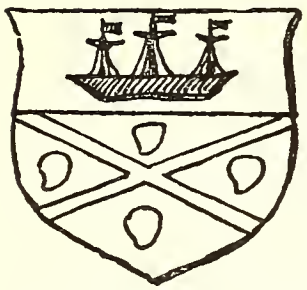
* *i.e., the E. and S.E. windows of S. Aisle, and N.E. window of N. Aisle.*

NO. 13. BENJAMIN KENTON, 1820.



Below is another brass to Benjamen Kenton Esq. ob. 25 May 1800. Above the name are the words "mortui resurgent," and a shield of circular form bearing the arms (the colours are hatched only) :— *az., a fesse erm., in chief* 3 *fleur-de-lys*, impaling *chequée or and gu.*, on *a fesse gu.* 3 *lions rampant.*

NO. 14. SIR THOS. SPERT, 1541.



A marble monument to Sir Thos. Spert in the South wall of the Chancel is of the same general design as that to Anne Nevill. Two black detached Corinthian columns with gilt capitals and bases support the cornice. The arch over the inscription (which is in gilt on black) is surrounded by a gilt moulding with egg-and-dart carving. A cherub's head, copper colour, with gilded hair forms the key & is flanked by two similar heads. Three or four large gilded roses and two smaller ones add to the ornamentation. Over the cornice are the arms *gu., a saltire between* 4 *body hearts or, on a chief of the second a ship* ; (this according to Lysons, but the shield now shows an *azure* field) and on each side a marble obelisk. Between the brackets that support the columns is the date of erection of the monument by the Company of the Trinity House in 1723. A similar inscription further down commemorates its reparation in 1806, and between these two is a sunk panel with a carved representation of a three-masted boat. The inscription is as follows :

D. O. M.

Herevnder was laid up ye bodie of Sir Thomas Spert Kt, some tyme Comptrowller of the Navy to King Henry the 8th & both the first Founder and Master of the worthie Society or Corporation called the Trinity Hovse. He lived enobled by his owne Worth, and dyed ye 8th of September in ye yeare 1541, to whose pious Memorie the said Corporation hath gratefvlly erected this Memoriall.

Nôt that he needed Monument of Stone
For his well gotten Fame to rest upon :

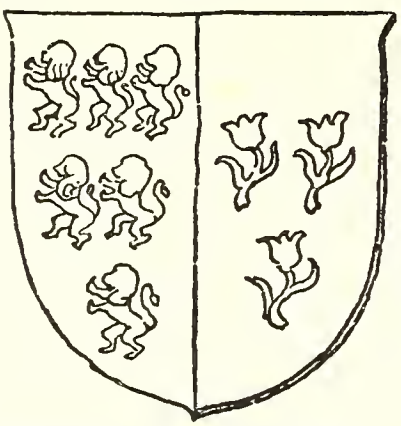
But this was rear'd to testifie that he
Lives in their Loves that yet surviving be
For unto Virtue, who first raisd his Name
He left the preservation of the same
And to Posterity remaine it shall
When Brasse and Marble Monuments do fall.
Learn for to dye while thow hast breath
So shalt thow live after thy Death.

An: Dom. 1622, by the Company of the Trinitye Howse, this Monument was erected 81 years after ye Decease of theyr Founder. 1725. This monument was again repaired and Beautified by the Corporation of the Trinity House, in Commemoration of their Founder in the year 1806. Earl Spencer, Master. Capt. Ios. Cotton, Dep. Mastr.

"Norden" mentions this burial thus—

Also Sir Thomas Spert Knight, sometime Controller of the Shippes to H. 8. Dame Margary, Dame Anne and Dame Mary his wives lie in the Chauncell there—he deceased Anno 1541.

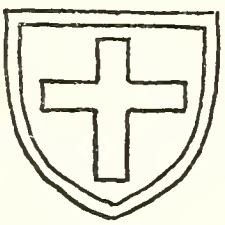
NO. 15. MARY LEYBOURNE, 1731.

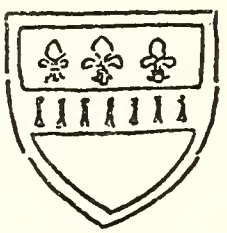


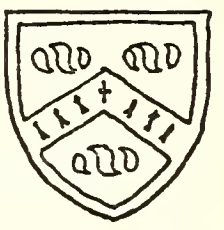
A white stone tablet to Mary Leybourne with brownish-grey marble cornice and architrave, and pilasters each side, is placed high up in the South wall of the Chancel, at the extreme East end. Two lamps are carved above and stand beside the coat of arms: *az.* 6 *lions rampant*, 3, 2, *and* 1. *or.*; *impaling gu.* 3 *lilies arg.* A shaped sunk panel below is carved with a representation of a winged skull.

Burial Register.—Dec 12 1731. *Mary, wife of Dr Robert Leybourne, Rector.*

NO. 16. BENJAMIN KENTON, 1800.





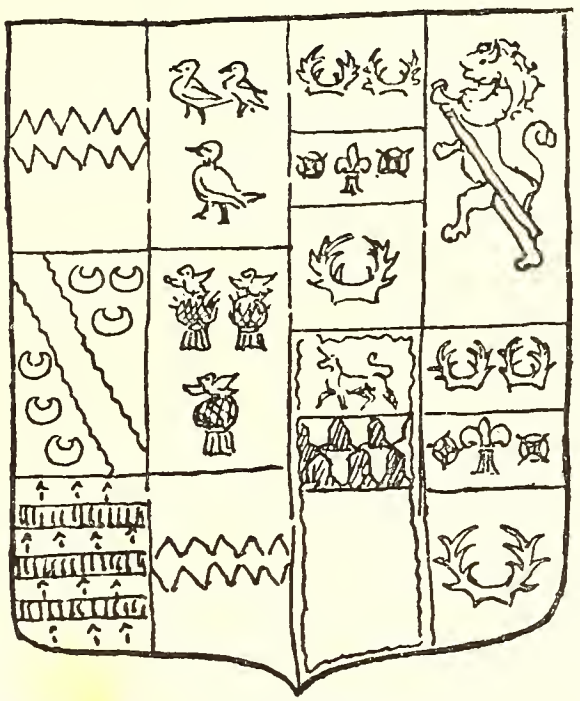


Below the memorial to Mrs. Leybourne is a monument of white marble to Benjamin Kenton Esq. (1800). It consists of two fluted Doric col-

umns supporting a curved frieze upon which are placed three shields, and between these, two ringed serpents. Behind the columns is a relief representing a scene from the parable of the good Samaritan. The base projects with a wider curve and has in its centre a panel with the inscription & some indifferent carving. The shields bear the following charges—
1. *sa., a cross couped or, within a bordure of the last.*
2. *sa., a fesse erm., in chief 3 fleur-de-lys or, within a bordure of the last.*
3. *sa., a chevron erm., between 3 tuns or, banded sa., within a bordure or.*
The 3 tuns are undecipherable, owing possibly to a careless repainting at a later period.

Burial Register.—May 31. 1800. *Benjamin Kenton, of Gower St. Westminster.*

NO. 17. WILLIAM DAWTREY, 1589.



A little wall tablet of reddish marble to William Dawtrey contains an inscription in black letters in a square panel, on each side of which are two slight pilasters having two sunk panels of black marble in each. The whole is surmounted by a cornice on which is a shield, of which the charges are almost invisible. The lower portion has two small shields in relief and a black medallion in the centre. The arms, according to Lysons, are as follows :—Quarterly of 6,

1 & 6.	*Az., 5 fusils in fesse, arg.* - - - -	Dawtrey.
2.	*Az. 3 doves or.* - - - - - -	Wood.
3.	*Gu. a bend engrailed arg. between 6 crescents or.* -	Rivers.
4.	*Sa., 3 garbs or, from each a dove rising arg.* - -	Skarfield.
5.	*Erm. 3 bars gu.* - - - - - -	Hussey.
Impaling quarterly 1 & 4	*Az. on a fesse between 3 stag's attires or, a fleur-de-lis of the field between 2 demi-roses gu.*	Stoneley.
2.	*A lion rampant bebruised with a baton.*	
3.	*A fesse vaire within a bordure engrailed, in chief an unicorn.*	

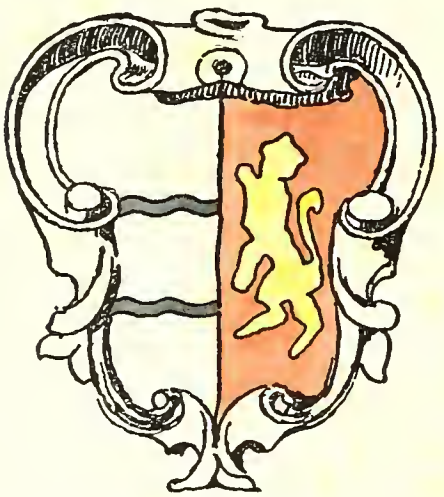
Wm. Dawtrey married Dorothy, daughter and co-heir of Rich. Stonely, of Warwickshire.

Inscription on Marble Tablet—

Genero suo. Gvlielmo Dawtrey Quondam Lincolniensis Hospitii socio: Wilhelmi Dawtrei sus sexiæ. Armigeri filio et Hæredi, Viro ingenii acumine Mentis acie, et non Vulgari Municipalium Angliæ legum Scientia, Præcellenti: Richardus Stonley Armiger Hoc amoris et Pietatis simbolum posvit

Obiit XVI Octobris 1589

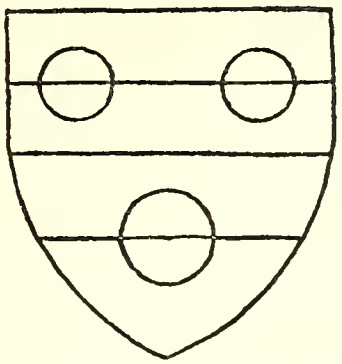
NO. 18. REV. THOS. DOD, 1727.

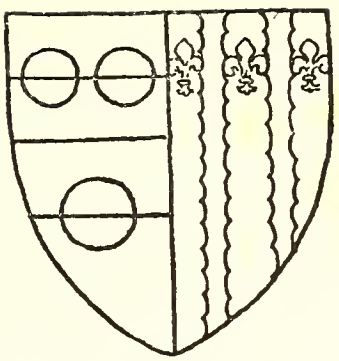


A shield of excellent design surmounts a tablet of white and black veined marble, to the memory of the Rev. Thos. Dod, Rector of Stepney, his sons Thomas, d. 1726, John, d. 1730, his daughters Ellin, d. 1727, and Mary Colvill d. 1795, and his wife Mary, d. 1773. The inscription is on a white slab that occupies the whole centre. A winged skull is carved below. The arms upon the shield are thus described by Lysons: *Arg.*, *on a fesse gu. between 2 bars wavy sa. 3 crescents or*, impaling *gu. a lion rampant regard. or*. The whole of the bearings do not, however, now appear, and the sable bars and red field are all that are coloured.

Burial Register.—Aug. 3, 1727. *The Rev. Mr. Thos. Dod, Rector of this Parish.*
Feb. 13, 1795. *Mary Colvill of Westminster.*

NO. 19. ROBERT CLARKE, 1610.





The monument to Robert Clarke and his daughter, is some height above the Chancel floor in the North Wall. A cornice of marble and two large pilasters enclose a recess in which are the figures of Robert Clarke and his wife kneeling facing one another on either side of an altar. The back is freely embellished with the usual strap ornament, fruit & flowers, all round a central panel which bears the inscription given below. The pilasters contain panels of black marble. Below is the English inscription which is divided into two parts by small pilasters, and beneath this the marble is of various colours. Two heads, floral ornament and a central boss complete the memorial. The arms are placed upon a corbel under the cornice and their description in Lysons runs thus—they are his own parentheses: *Barry of* 4 *gu. & vert*, 3 *pellets* (*they should be plates*), impaling *sa.* (*it should be az.*) 2 *pales engrailed between* 3 *fleur-de-lis in chief or*—Langton." The former is repeated above upon a shield surmounted by a cherub and on each side an urn. The monument is heavily gilt in parts, and the inner faces of the pilasters are ornamented with a gilt network of lines.

Inscription:—

IN OBITUM ROBERTE CLARKE GENEROSI
QUI EX VITA HAC MIGRAVIT
DIE MENSIS
IN CLERICI TUMULO SPECTRUM VIDE FRAGILITATIS
VANA VIRI EST VIRTUS VITA CADUCA CARO
FLOS SICUT EST FUERIS SPIRANS FUIT HIC SICUT IPSE
AST CELERI RAPUIT MORS VIOLENTA PEDE
VTQ CADAT FLORES IN GERMINE MESSIS IN HERBA
TURBINE COMOTUS SIC CLERICUS PERIIT
VITA LICET BREVIS EST CŒLIS ÆTERNE MORATUR
QUEM COLIT OMNIPOTENS TOLLITER HUIC CITIUS
LAUDIBUS EXIGUIS DECORANS MAJORE MERENTEM
DIMINUO LAUDES PIUS SIBI FAMA REFERT
SI PIETAS CHARITAS BONITASQ IN MENTE REFULGENT
HÆC UBI CORDE VIRENT OMNIA RECTA PUTES

Here resteth the bodie of Robert Clarke Esq.
Sonne of Roger Clarke Esquire, late Alderman of the Citty
of London, A man humble in prosperity, a liberall distribu
ter to the poore, curteous & affable to all—an upright
And a just dealer in this worlde and a devoute and most
relligious seeker for the worlde to come.
He had to wife Margaretta daughter to Iohn Langton Esq.
Sometyme Governor of the English Company in Sprucia un
der the Kinge of Polonia: whoe lived together in great love
And integritie almost six yeeres
He had by her one onely daughter named Frances
Who lived one yeere and three quarters and here
lyeth interred with her most deere and loving father.
Whose memory the said Margaretta to express
her true love and affeccon hath cavsed this
Monument to be erected
He dyed the xxxth day of May Ano Dni 1610
Having lived xxxv yeeres

Burial register.—June 12, 1610. *Robert Clarke of Bednal greene, Gent. sonne to Alderman Clarke of London, deceased. he gave* 36 *mourninge gownes beside cloakes, and was buried the* 12 *of June.*

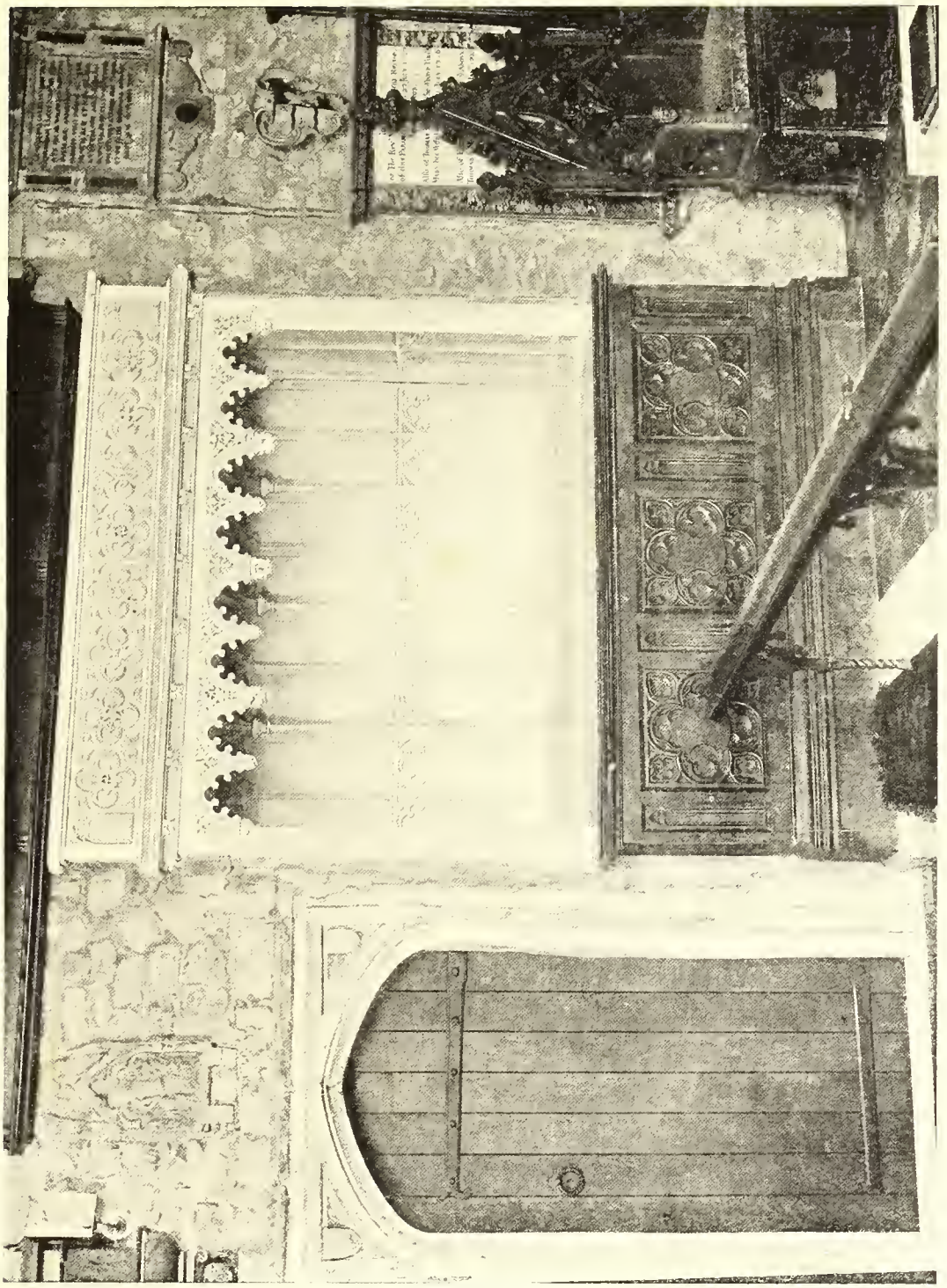
NO. 20. SIR HENRY COLLET, 1510.

A large canopied altar tomb about seven feet wide, stands in a recess on the N. side of the Chancel. The tomb itself projects from the recess; it is of polished Purbeck marble, and has three square and four narrower panels of tracery on the face. The back and sides of the recess above are panelled, with two rows of arched and cusped heads, and the soffit of the canopy is carved to represent vaulting and pendants. The face of the canopy has arched and cusped heads, surmounted by a frieze of cusped quatrefoils. All the stone-work over the tomb itself is whitened. One of the shields in the tracery on the face of the tomb bears a small brass shield inscribed as under:

> Here lyeth sir Henry Collet knight twice mayor of London who died in the year of our Redemption 1510.

The arms of Collet, as given by Lysons, are—*The Deanery of St. Paul's*, impaling *Sa., on a chevron engrailed between* 3 *hinds arg. as many annulets of the field*—Colet.

"Weever" adds a note to this inscription: "This Henry was son to



Collet Tomb and Vestry Door, N. side of Chancel.

F. W. Reader.

Robert Collet of Wendover in Bucks, and father to John Collet, Dean of St. Pauls, in the first time of his mayoralty the Crosse in Cheapside was new builded in that beautiful manner as it now standeth."
This monument is kept in repair by the Mercers' Company.
"Sir H. Colet wills to be buried at Stepney, at the sepulchre before St. "Dunstan—and his monument is still to be seen on the N. side of the "Church."—Gough's "Sepulchral Monuments" 1786. Vol. I. Part I, p. 11.

The three following brasses, all of triangular shape, with inscriptions in Latin, are on the floor of the Chancel:

NO. 21. CHARLOTTE LEE, 1862.
Wife of the Rev. R. Lee, M.A., Rector of Stepney 1847-1869.

NO. 22. EVAN JAMES, 1842 AND SARA ANNE JAMES, 1840.

NO. 23. BENJAMIN KENTON, 1800.
See No. 16.

Weever *(Fun. Mon.)* also gives the two following monuments as being in the Church in his time:

JO. KITT, OR KITE, BISHOP OF CARLISLE, 1537.

Vndyr this ston closyde and marmorate
Lyeth IOHN KITTE Londoner natyffe.
Encreasyng in vertues rose to high estate,
In the fourth EDWARDS chappel by his yong lyffe,
Sith whych the sevinth HENRYES servyce primatyffe
Proceeding stil in vertuous efficase
To be in fauour with this our king's grase.
With witt endewyd chosen to be legate
Sent into Spayne, where he ryght ioyfully
Combyned both prynces, in pease most amate:
In Grece archbyshop elected worthely,
And last of Carlyel rulying pastorally
Kepyng nobyl houshold wyth grete hospitality:
On thowsand fyve hundred thirty and sevyn,
Invyterate wyth pastoral carys, consumyd with age,
The nintenth of Iun reckonyd ful evyn,
Passyd to hevyn from wordly pylgramage:
Of whos soul good pepul of cherite
Prey, as ye wold be preyd for; for thus must ye lie.
JESU mercy lady help.

RICHARD PACE, DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S, 1532.

Richardus iacet hic venerabilis ille decauus
Qui fuit etatis doctus Apollo sue ;
Eloquio, forma, ingenio, virtutibus, arte
Nobilis, eternum viuere dignus erat.
Consilio bonus, ingenio fuit vtilis acri,
Facunda eloquij deteritate potens.
Non rigidus, non ore minax, affabilis omni
Tempore ; seu puero seu loquerere seni.
Nulli vnquam nocuit, multos adiuvit, & omnes
Officij studuit demeruisse bonos.
Tantus hic et talis, ne non deleatur ademptus
Flent muse, et laceris mesta minerua comis.
Obijt anno 1532. etat circiter 40.

"This PACE succeeded COLLET in the Deanry of Paul's, a man highly in favor with K. HENRY VIII. by whom he was employed as ambassador to MAXIMILIAN the German emperor; as also to Rome in the behalf of cardinal WOLSEY, who stood in election for the popedom. He wrote divers learned treatises yet extant. Nam vir erat (saith BALE) vtriusque literaturæ peritia præditus. Nemo ingenio candidior, aut humanitate amicitior: he was a right worthy man, and one who gave in counsel faithful advice ; learned he was also, & indowed with many excellent gifts of nature, courteous, pleasant, and delighting in music, highly in the king's favor, & well heard in matters of weight." (*Weever*).

MONUMENTS IN THE NORTH AISLE.

NO. 24. Stone panel, with sculpture of the Crucifixion, enclosed in an ornamented border (see illustration, plate 8). From the character of the figures and the detail of the border, the date of the work is generally assigned to the 12th century—probably the latter portion ; and so, unless we accept the statement that the font still retains some of its *original* stonework, although restored, this panel is the oldest work now remaining in the Church. Until the 1899 restoration it was outside over the south door of the nave, but was then brought to its present position for better preservation.

NO. 25. Stone coffin lid, with moulded edges, bearing on its face a cross *botonée*, with a solid circle at the intersection of the arms, and surmounting a slender stem which stands on a base of 3 steps. The carving is in very low relief.

NO. 26. ANN MOOR, 1804.

A plain white marble slab, to Ann Moor, wife of Capt. John Moor, died at "Demarary, South America."

NO. 27. ANN ELDER, 1811.

A plain white marble slab, on a simple base, recording also a bequest of five pounds a year to the Rector of Stepney for the time being, "to keep her family tomb (in the churchyard) in substantial and decent repair."

NO. 28. A stone tablet, bearing no date, records that

"Ann Elder

Gave by her Will the interest of £315 to three Daughters of Master Mariners under these conditions, that their respective fathers shall have been wrecked on the Coast of Cornwall, that they have attended the services and sacraments of the Church of England, and be of deserving character. And that their respective ages be not under 20 years. Preference to be given to the Hamlet of Ratcliff, where they shall be resident at the time of their Fathers' misfortune. The above shall be given at the Vestry of the Church on the 4th Jany. in every year by the Rector."

NO. 29. SIR JOHN BERRY, 1689.

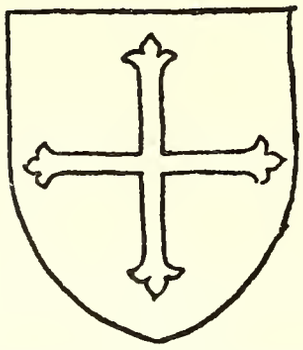
A severely classical memorial to D. Joannes. Berry, who died in 1689: comprises a bust of himself in front of a black marble niche which is itself surmounted by architrave and pediment of white marble. The bust stands upon a curved pediment covering the inscription, which is in Latin, and forms a panel in a round frieze which with its architrave, completes the tablet. Lysons gives his arms: *Or*, 3 *bars gu.*, but they are not on the monument.

Inscription.

NE ID NESCIAS LECTOR, D JOANNES BERRY
DEVONIENSIS, DIGNITATE, EQUESTRI. CLARUS, MARIS
TANTUM NON IMPERATOR, DE REGE ET PATRIA,
QUOD ET BARBARR NORUNT, BENE MERITUS.
MAGNAM OB RES FORTITER GESTAS ADEPTUS
GLORIAM FAMÆ SATUR, POST MULTAS
REPORTATAS VICTORIAS, CUM AB ALIIS
VINCI NON POTUIT, FATIS CESSIT 14 FEBR 1689
BAPTIZATUS 7 JAN 1635

Burial register, Feb. 21, 1689—*Sr John Berry of Mileend, Knight.*

NO. 30. HUGO JAMES, 1728.



A square tablet of white veined marble sunk in a deep moulding and surmounted by a shield, is that of Hugo James. His arms — *Arg.*, *a cross patonce gu.*

NO. 31. NICHOLAS DIXON, 1818.

A plain white marble tablet, recording the above, and his wife Elizabeth Ann, d. 1823.

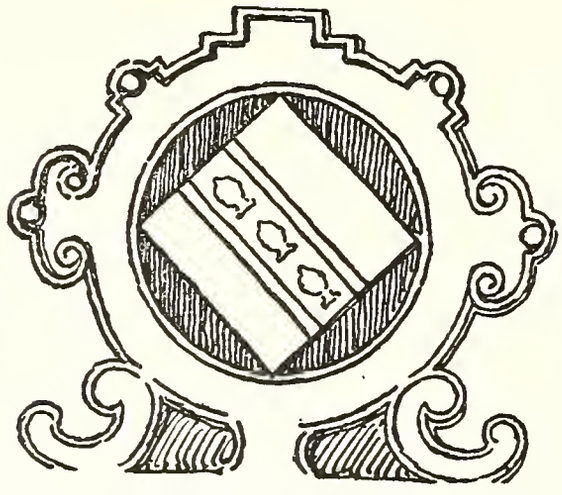
NO. 32. JOHN CHARRINGTON, 1815.

A white marble tablet, recording the above, who died Dec. 9th, and his wife Katherine, who died on the 13th of the same month. "They were interred the same day in the family vault at their native place, Aldenham, Herts."

NO. 33. LIEUTENANT HAROLD CHARRINGTON, R.N., 1882.

A white marble tablet, in a frame of serpentine, to the memory of Lieut. Charrington, of H.M.S. Euryalus, and great-grandson of the above John; who, together with Professor Edward Palmer, of Cambridge, and Capt. W. J. Gill, R.E., was killed by Arabs in the Desert of Sinai. The inscription further records the interment of their remains in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral, and the erection, by the Admiral and officers of the 'Euryalus,' of a tablet in Hunsdon Church, Herts., to the memory of Lieut. Charrington.

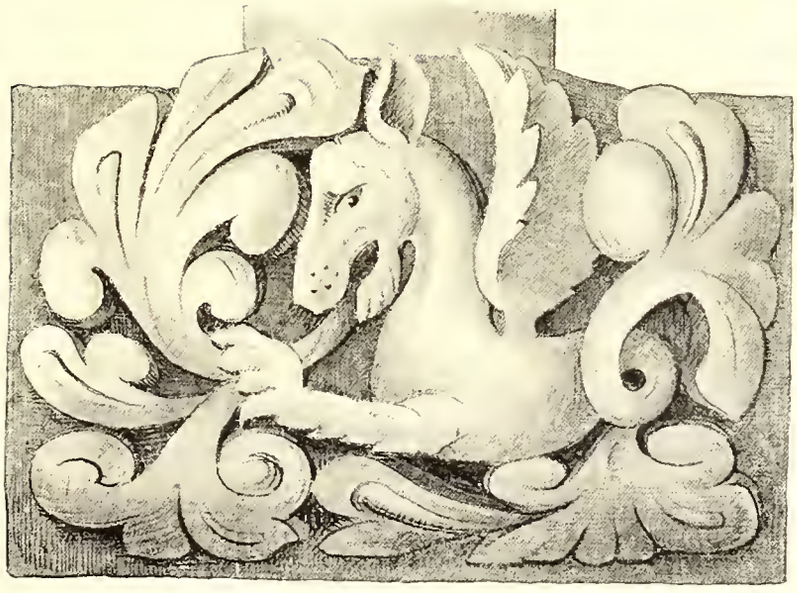
NO. 34. ELIZABETH STARTUTE, 1620.



Two recesses, one above the other, enclose figures of the deceased lady and the erectors of the monument. Dame Elizabeth Startute is above kneeling; two detached Corinthian columns support the frieze, upon which is an inscription, and under the soffit of the cornice are three gilded roses. The lower recess is the larger and holds the figures of Capt. Michael Merriall and Clare his wife, who was eldest daughter to Elizabeth Startute. They kneel opposite one another, an altar between.

Norman Rood in Chancel.

A. P. Wire.



Corbel, South Arcade of Nave.

Corbel, North Arcade of Nave.

Drawn by F. W. Reader.

The chief inscription lies in a space between the two recesses and below the two figures another inscription tells of the gift. Two roses finish the corbels to the columns and a winged skull is beneath the centre. The figures and ornaments are painted and gilded as is usual in the tombs of the same date. Over the top cornice stand the arms : *Az., between 2 bendlets gu., 3 garbs sa.* Lysons describes the field as *argent.*

Inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF THEIR BELOVED MOTHER ELIZABTH THE WIDDOW OF RICHARD STARTUTE CITIZEN AND FISHMUNGER OF LONDON : WHO HAD ISSHUE BY HIM 3 SONS & 4 DAUGHTERS, AFTER 10 YERES SPENT WTH HIM REMAYNED 34 YEARS HIS WIDDOW IN LIFE AND DEATH A CONSTANT EXAMPELE OF TRUE VIRTUE AND SWEETLY FEL-ASLEEP IN THE LORD DECEMBER 5, 1620. ÆTAT 74. CAPTAIN MICHAEL MERRIALL AND CLARE HIS WIFE, ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE NAMED ELIZABETH STARTUTE, HAVE ERECTED THIS MONUMENT AS A TESTIMONI OF HER VIRTV & THEIR LOV.

THIS LIFE IS A WARFARE. COME LORD IESUS COME QUICKLY. REV. 22

NO. 35. JOSEPH SOMES, 1845.

An elaborate monument, of Gothic design, in white and grey veined marbles, to J. Somes, M.P. for Dartmouth, and a prominent shipowner. The inscription is in a central arched recess, and over is a shield bearing the arms—*Erm. a cinquefoil, on a canton an escallop.* Below the inscription is a carving, in white marble, of "two full-rigged ships off the Port of London."

Burial Register.—July 2, 1845. *Joseph Somes of M.E.O.T. Age* 58.

NO. 36. ABRAHAM RALLINGS, 1644.

A square rough stone with raised margin, to the above, and also to "Abraham his sonn" who died in the same year.

NO. 37. JOSEPH JEWSON COOPER, 1874.

A white scroll upon a black marble slab, with inscription, and the remains of a carving in relief at the top.

NO. 38. Over the doorway leading from the Chancel to the Vestry is a small mutilated sculpture representing the Annunciation, enclosed in a panel having a triangular cinquefoiled head. Previous to the recent restoration it was in the wall of the north porch, & before that, in Lysons' time, on the west wall of the Church.

CHAPTER IV. THE CHURCH-YARD AND ITS MONUMENTS.

THE large churchyard of St. Dunstan's owes its size (about 7 acres) to the great outbreaks of plague 1625-6 & 1665-6, which necessitated additions to the ground. The vestry minutes about these dates refer very frequently to the extensions, outlay, etc., and instructions given to the sexton as to burials not to be within a certain distance of the Church. So great was the number of burials, that by license granted by the Bishop on January 24, 1625-6, at the request of the Vicar, the Parish Clerk was empowered to bury parishioners, because there was more work than the Curate could do. In that year 3960 burials took place, and in 1665-6,—6580; and so greatly was the parish—then principally inhabited by seafaring men—depopulated, that it is recorded in "The Life of Lord Clarendon" that "there seemed an impossibility to procure seamen to fit out the fleet" (*Lewis, Topographical Dict.*, 1849).

There are many mentions of the plague at Stepney in Defoe (Edit. Bell & Co. 1891). He says, that besides the Church-yard there were other burying-grounds in the parish—at Spitalfields, Petticoat Lane, & where St. Paul's, Shadwell, & St. John's, Wapping stand. Also that most of the cases came from Spitalfields on the borders of Shoreditch. That it was very difficult to keep exact account of the number of burials. "Especially, if it be true, that the parish of Stepney had within the year 116 sextons, grave-diggers, and their assistants, that is to say bearers, bellmen and drivers of carts for carrying off the dead bodies.

"Indeed the work was not of a nature to allow them leisure to take an exact tale of the dead bodies, which were all laid together into a pit, in the dark, which pit no man could come nigh but at the utmost peril.

"I observed often that in the parishes of Whitechapel, Aldgate, and Stepney there were 5, 6, and 700 a week in the Bills, whereas in the opinion of those who lived in the City there died sometimes 2000 a week in these parishes, and I saw it under the hand of one that made as strict an examination as he could, that there really died of the plague 100,000 people in that one year (1665-6) whereas the Bills only showed 68,590."* (page 72).

At times the churchyard appears to have been the resort of the idle and dissolute, for by a minute of 27 June 1655, it was ordered that "A Breviate of all Acts and Ordinances of Parliament that concerne the due

* *Defoe's account of the Plague was published 57 years after the event, and, though founded on facts, is considered to partake somewhat of the romantic bias of its author. See however the figures of burials in the Stepney Register p.* 49.

observation of the Lords daye bee drawne vpp published and sett vpp in seuerall convenient places in and about the church to the end that all idle and disorderly persons whoe walke vpp & downe on the lords daye or lyers on the ground in the churchyard may bee tymely forewarned. That a cage and a pare of stocks bee sett vpp in some convenient place neare the church w̄thin the church yard."

By the minutes of Nov. 27, 1683, it is evident that the backs of houses at that time abutted upon the churchyard, for "Whereas by back dores of Publick houses into the Church yard Potts and Bottles are indecently shewen, And people from thence get into the Churchyard from Tipling to prevent being taken, It is therefore ordered by the Vestry that no Publick house shall hereafter be suffered to have any dore in the Church yard or shall expose their Potts or Bottles or Painted Posts or Boards into the Churchyard and that notice thereof be given to the respective Inhabitants accordingly."

19th October, 1854. At a special meeting of the Vestry held as above, it was explained that, by an Order in Council, Stepney churchyard would be closed for burials on the 24th of October 1854, but upon the piece of ground adjoining being consecrated, burials would be permitted therein until October 1856.

The churchyard was, in March 1886, handed over to the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association. Again in 1890 this Association resigned its charge to the London County Council, who now conduct the area as a public garden, but only under authority of the Rector.

Stepney was frequently visited by Samuel Pepys the diarist, the Trinity House, of which he was twice Master, being then situated in the parish.* Under date 3 June 1667, he writes: "Thence down by water to Deptford, it being Trinity Monday, when the Master is chosen, and thence, finding them all at Church, and thinking they had dined, as usual at Stepney, I turned back, having a good book in my hand, the life of Cardinal Wolsey, wrote by his own servant, and to Ratcliffe, and so walked to Stepney, & spending time in the churchyard, looking over the gravestones, expecting when the company would come by."

The 'Spectator' on Stepney Churchyard

Stepney Church-yard forms the subject for a number of the "Spectator" No. 518. Friday Oct. 24, 1712:

"Since I am talking of Death, and have mentioned an Epitaph, I must tell you Sir, that I have made discovery of a churchyard in which I believe you might spend an afternoon with great pleasure to yourself, and to the publick. It belongs to the Church of Stebon-heath, commonly called Stepney. Whether or no it be that the people of that parish have

* *See the Monograph on the Trinity Hospital in Mile End; by C. R. Ashbee, M.A., issued by the Survey Committee in* 1896. *London, 4to.*

a particular genius for an epitaph, or that there be some poet among them who undertakes that work by the great, I can't tell; but there are more remarkable inscriptions in that place than in any other I have met with; and I may say, without vanity, that there is not a Gentleman in England better read in tombstones than myself, my studies having laid very much in churchyards. I shall beg leave to send you a couple of epitaphs, for a sample of those I have just now mentioned. They are written in a different manner: the first being in the diffused and luxuriant, the second in the close contracted stile. The first has much of the simple and pathetick; the second is something light, but nervous. The first is thus:

Here Thomas Sapper lyes interr'd, Ah why!*
Born in New England, did in London dye;
Was the third son of eight, begot upon
His mother Martha, by his father John.
Much favoured by his Prince he 'gan to be,
But nipt by Death at th' age of twenty three
Fatal to him was that we small pox name,
By which his mother and two brethren came
Also to breathe their last nine years before,
And now have left their Father to deplore
The loss of all his children, with his wife
Who was the joy and comfort of his life.

The second is as follows:

Here lies the body of Daniel Saul
Spittle-fields weaver, and that's all."

There are many other interesting and curious epitaphs mentioned in the several books (Strype's *Stow*, Maitland, &c.) but it may be stated that all, without exception, are now partly or wholly undecipherable, and many are missing; though the Burial Registers, in most cases, confirm their original existence.

The monuments & tomb-stones which have heraldic bearings on them, are given in the following list partly on the authority of Mr. John T. Page's articles in the *East End News*, 1896.

The Churchyard Cross

At the S. side of the west entrance has been erected a cross, made from the scorched beams of the roof in the fire of 1901, with the following inscription: "In memory of the fire, October 12, 1901." The platform upon which this cross rests is used as a pulpit on summer evenings.

* "*Sir Thomas Saffin*" *in other versions.*

CAPT. WILLIAM SHARPE (date obliterated). A broken slab embedded in the ground. Arms: *a fess bet. in chief 2 cross crosslets fitchée, and in base a mullet.* Crest: *a pheon reversed.* The carving is much worn. *The Churchyard Monuments*

CAPT. HENRY MUDD, 1692. Altar tomb of white stone, with polished granite slab. Inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF CAPT. HENRY MUDD, WHO DIED 2ND JUNE, 1692: THIS TOMB WAS REBUILT AT THE SOLE EXPENSE OF THE CORPORATION OF TRINITY HOUSE OF DEPTFORD STROND IN THE YEAR 1776, AS A GRATEFUL TESTIMONY OF HIS BENEFACTIONS TO THAT CHARITY FOR DECAY'D SEAMEN, THEIR WIDOWS AND FAMILIES.* RESTORED 1876.

Burial Register.—June 7 1692. Henry Mudd, of Ratcliffe, Esq.

JOHN REDMAN, 176-. Altar tomb. Arms: 3 *cushions*, impaling *a chief erm.* Crest: *a dexter hand couped at the wrist appaumée.*

WILLIAM OGLE, 17--. Altar tomb. Arms: *a fess bet. 3 crescents.*

WILLIAM and SARAH FRIEND and family, 17(48). Recumbent slab. Arms: *a chevron bet. 3 stag's heads cabossed*, impaling *erm., on a chevron 3 cinquefoils.*

BROWNING family. Altar tomb, much broken and decayed. Inscription and date obliterated. Arms: *a chevron bet. 3 lions passant guardant.* Crest: *a lion passant guardant.*

JANE & ISAAC LEFEVRE 179-, 1812. Tall altar tomb, surrounded by iron railings. Arms: *per chevron sa. & gu., a chevronel bet. in chief 3 trefoils slipped, one and two, and in base an orb surmounted by a cross patée*, impaling *vert 3 stags trippant.* Crest: *a trefoil slipped.*

MRS. GRACE ELDER, 1803. Also her daughter ANN ELDER, 1811. Plain recumbent stone on low plinth, enclosed by tall iron railings. This is the tomb referred to in No. 27, page 37.

AGENT HENRY NURSE, 1705, and family. Large recumbent slab. Arms: *a fess bet. 2 chevrons.* Crest: *a dexter arm embowed, grasping in the hand a snake environing the arm.*

THOMAS TAYLOR, (17)53. Altar tomb. Arms: *Erm., on a chief 3 escallops.* Crest: *out of a ducal coronet a dexter arm embowed, the hand grasping a sword.*

* *Capt. Mudd gave the ground to the Corporation of Trinity House on which the Trinity Hospital is built. See Monograph on Trinity Hospital*, 1896.

SIR NATHANIEL HODGES, Knight (1727). Altar tomb, much broken and decayed. Arms: 3 *crescents and a canton*, impaling *a bardure*. Crest: *on a ducal coronet over a knight's helmet, a crescent.*

JOHN BODINGTON (date obliterated). Altar tomb. Arms: *on a chief semée of crosses crosslet fitchée, a demi-lion rampant issuant.* Crest: *a demi-lion rampant.*

CAP. IOHN PAULIN, 1707. Altar tomb. Arms: *a lion rampant, on a chief* 3 *roundles.* Crest: 2 *gambs supporting a roundle.*

SAMUEL WALKER, 17(2)9. Altar tomb, much decayed. Arms: *on a bend* 3 *mullets.* Crest: *a bird rousant.*

Altar tomb, inscription obliterated, but probably to JOHN GORUM, 1716. Arms: *chequy, a bend engrailed.* Crest: *a pelican in her piety.*

MRS. DINAH FOX (date obliterated). Altar tomb. Arms: *a chevron bet.* 3 *fox's heads erased.* Crest: *a fox passant.*

WILLIAM HEATH (date obliterated). Large slab, on ground. Arms: *per chevron embattled, in chief* 2 *mullets of* 6 *points, in base a heathcock*, impaling 3 *two-pronged dung forks.* Crest: *a cock's head, wattled and combed.*

MRS. MARY WESTERBEANE (date obliterated), JOSIAH (1792) and ANN WALLIS, 1803. Large altar tomb. Arms: 3 *birds close*, impaling *a wolf rampant, in chief a covered cup bet.* 2 *mullets of six points.* Crest: *a bird rousant.*

PETER BERE, 1721, and family. Large altar tomb, surrounded by iron railings. Arms: *a bear rampant*, impaling *a chevron bet.* 3 *bugle horns, on a chief* 3 *demi-lions (?).*

BETSEY HARRIS, 1831. The inscription on this stone is as follows:

> *Sacred to the Memory of BETSEY HARRIS who died suddenly while contemplating on the beauties of the Moon the 24th of April* 1831 *in her 23rd year*

CAPT. WILLIAM WILDEY, 1679. Altar tomb much decayed. Arms: *a chevron gouttée bet.* 3 *martlets.*

CAPT. THOMAS CHEVERS, 1675. Altar tomb, inscription and arms much decayed. Arms: 3 *lions rampant*, 2 & 1, impaling *on a fess* 3 *crescents, a canton*. Inscription:—

Here lye interr'd the bodies of Capt. Thomas Chevers who departed this life Nov. 18th 1675, aged 44 years. And of Ann Chevers his Wife, who departed this Life Novr. 14 1675, aged 34 years. And of John Chevers their son who departed this Life Nov. 13th 1675 aged 5 days.

Reader, consider well how poor a span
And how uncertain is the life of Man:
Here lye the Husband, Wife, & Child, by Death
All three in five days time deprived of Breath.
The Child dies first, the Mother on the Morrow
Follows, and then the Father dies with Sorrow.
A Cæsar falls by many wounds; well may
Two stabs at heart the stoutest Captain slay.

Burial Register.—Nov. 23, 1675. *Capt. Thomas Chivers, Ann his wife, John his sonne.*

REV. MATTHEW MEAD, 1699. Large altar tomb, enclosed within iron railings. The Rev. M. Mead was one of the founders and early ministers of Stepney Meeting.*

ADMIRAL SIR JOHN LEAKE, 1720. Fine altar tomb, mainly of marble, and surrounded by railings. The inscription is as follows:

To ye Memory of ye Honble. Sr. Jno. Leake Kt. Rear Admrl. of Gt. Brittain Admrl. & Commander in Chief of her late Majty. Queen Anne's fleet & one of ye Lords Commissioners of ye Admiralty. Departd this life ye 21 *of August* 1720 *Ætat* 64 *yrs.* 1 *m.* 17 *d. Who Anno* 1689 *in ye Dartmouth by engaging Kilmore Castle relieved ye city of Londonderry in Ireland also Anno* 1702 *with a Squadn. at Newfoundland he took and destroy'd* 51 *sail of French together with all their Settlements. Anno* 1704 *he forced the van of ye French fleet at ye Malaga engagemt, reld. Gibraltar twice burning and taking* 13 *sail of French Men of War likewise. Anno* 1706 *reld. Barcelona ye Present Empr. of Germany besieged therein by Phillip of Spain and took* 90 *sail of Corn Ships ye same year taking ye Cities of Carthagena and Alicant with ye Islands of Ivica, Majorca, Sardina & Minorca.*

Burial Register.—Aug. 30 1720. *Sr. John Leak from Greenwich.*

* *See biography of him by Mr. J. T. Page in 'East End News,'* 1896.

There are also inscriptions on this tomb in memory of Dame Christian Leake (1709), wife of Sir John ; Mary Hills, her mother (1703) ; and Captain Stephen Martin Leake, brother-in-law and heir of Sir John Leake, 1736.

JOHN SHAKESPEAR, 1775, and family. A large coped altar tomb. Arms : *on a bend a tilting spear.* Crest : *a falcon, wings addorsed, inverted, holding a tilting spear in bend.* "The same coat of arms appears on the Shakespeare monument in the Church at Stratford-on-Avon, where, with the tinctures added, it reads, *Or, on a bend sa. a tilting spear of the field.*" (*J. T. Page.*)

CAPT. ROBERT HALCROW, 1774. Coped altar tomb. Arms: *a lion rampant, on a chief* 3 *mullets.* Crest : *a demi-lion rampant.* This tomb is endowed by the bequest of Lady Welch.

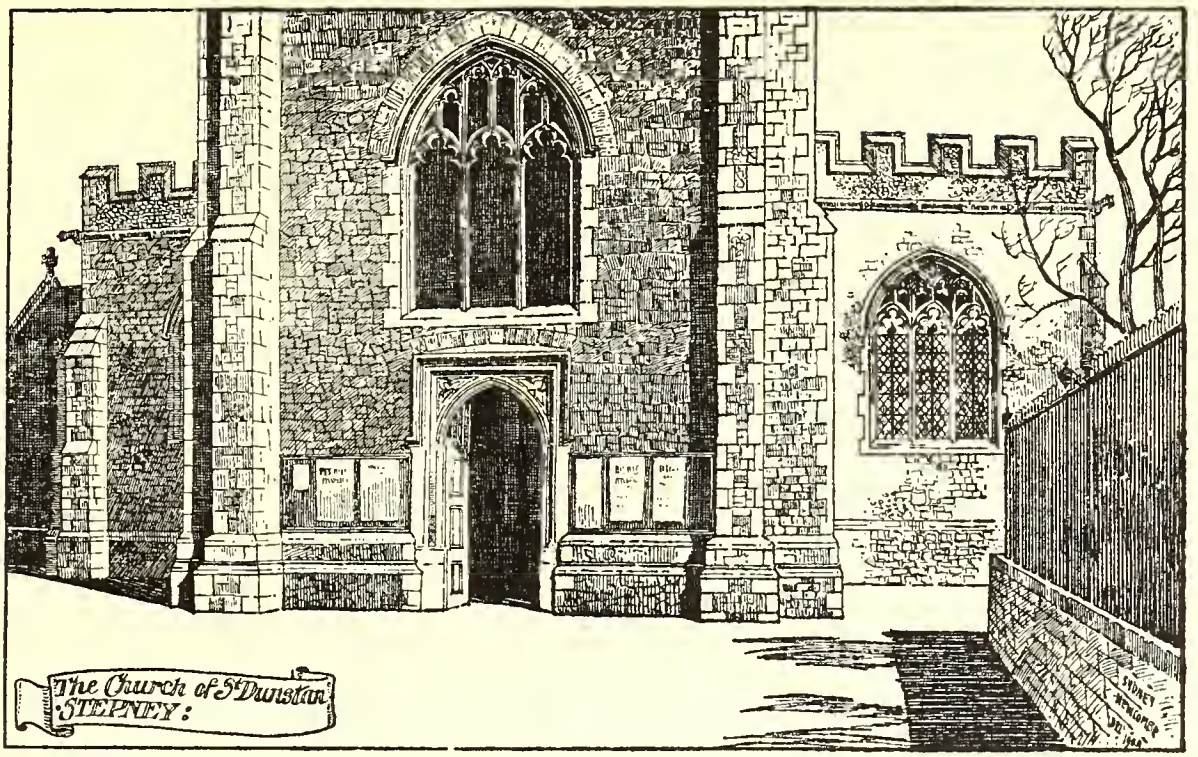
CAPT. JOHN WILLMOTT, 1699. Large slab, lying on ground. Arms : *a fess bet.* 3 *eagle's heads erased.* The Crest is obliterated.

RICHARD PHILLIPS (date obliterated). Large flat slab, crest and arms much defaced, but probably as follows : Arms : 3 *hawks* (*or falcons*) *belled*, impaling *a chevron bet.* 3 *herons* (*or storks*), *a canton or, a lion rampant.*

ABRAHAM ROBARTS, 1761, and family. Large altar tomb, enclosed by iron railings. Arms: 3 *cross bows, a label for difference, on an escutcheon of pretence, a chevron gouttée bet.* 3 *birds close*, for Wildey. Crest : *a stag lodged regardant.*

SUSANNA ELL, 1643. Monument in churchyard on north side of church. The inscription is worth recording ; there is one almost exactly the same in memory to one Lockyer, a pill manufacturer, whose tomb is in the north transept of St. Saviour's Cathedral, Southwark :

To say an Ell lies here, ev'n that alone
Were epitaph enough, no Brass, no Stone,
No glorious Tomb, no Monumental Hearse
No gilded Trophy, or lamp laboured Verse
Can dignifie her Grave, or set it forth
Like the immortal fame of her own Worth.
Then Reader, fix not here, but quit this room
And fly to Abraham's bosom, there's her tomb :
There rests her soul, and for her other Parts
They are imbalmed, & lodg'd in good mens' hearts
A braver monument of stone & lime
No Art can raise, for this shall outlast Time.



West end of Church.

ROGER CRABB, 1680. A stone slab, with inscription.

This Roger Crabb, described in the pamphlet "The English Hermit, or Wonder of the Age," served in the Parliamentary Army; he gave all his estate to the poor, only retaining a cottage at Ickenham, and lived on dock leaves, mallows, and grass.

MARY ANGELL, 1693.

To say, an Angel here interred doth lye
May be thought strange, for Angels never dye.
Indeed some fell from Heaven to Hell,
Are lost, and rise no more.
This only fell by death to earth
Not lost, but gone before.
Her dust lodged here, her soul, perfect in grace
'Mongst saints and Angels now hath took its place.

CHAPTER V. THE REGISTERS, VESTRY RECORDS, & CHURCH FITTINGS.

The Registers & other Parish Records

THE Registers—of baptisms, marriages, and burials—begin in Sept.-Oct., 1568, and form an unbroken series to the present time. Except in a few cases, where the volumes need re-binding, they are all in an excellent state of preservation. They are carefully kept in a large fire-proof safe in the vestry, & to this care owe their preservation from destruction during the fire of October 1901.
The list given in the Terrier of 1889-1890 is as follows:

Baptisms	-	1568 to 1837	-	24 volumes.
,,	-	1837 to 1889	-	14 ,,
Burials	-	1568 to 1839	-	31 ,,
,,	-	1839 to 1889	-	7 ,,
Marriages	-	1568 to 1836	-	39 ,,
,,	-	1836 to 1889	-	44 ,,
		Total number of volumes		159

By what is evidently a clerical error the Terrier states the number of marriage registers from 1836 to 1889 (Nos. 115 – 159) as 45, which would bring up the total to 160; it may be that the duplicate of register in use at the time was included.
The Terrier also gives the following list of books and documents belonging to the church and parish, and now kept in the vestry:

Vestry minutes, 1579-1777, 3 volumes, then a gap and a fourth volume from 1821 to date.
Banns books, from about 1750 to date, 24 volumes.

Day Books, of Burials	25 volumes	(oldest 1736).	
,, ,, *Christenings*	7 ,,	about same date.	
,, ,, *Marriages*	2 ,,	1727-1750.	
Easter Dues - -	11 ,,		
Fee Books - - -	4 ,,	1821-1882.	
Tithe Books - -	12 ,,	ranging from 1770-1780.	
Parish Account Books -	4 ,,	1737-1787.	

Some of these volumes have been reprinted during the last few years.

Mr. G. W. Hill and the Rev. W. H. Frere have edited the more interesting of the Vestry minutes and records; and printed *verbatim* those ranging from 1579 to 1662.* Mr. T. Colyer-Ferguson, in 1898-1901, issued three volumes of reprints of the Marriage Registers covering the years 1568-1719.†

The Registers. Plague entries, &c.

Stepney was greatly harassed by the plague during the first 65 years of the 17th century. The first entry "plague" in the Burial Register occurring early in January 1602, and the last on Oct. 7, 1666. In those 65 years there was only one interval of 13 years, 1612-25, which shows no plague entry, and two other intervals of four years 1626-30, 1631-35. There were few other years which do not show some entries. Four visitations were very severe, those of 1602-3 and 1640-8 being bad, and the great plagues of 1625-6 and 1665-6 being historical.

The months of August & September appear, at each visitation, to have been the most fatal; thus in 1625-6 the entries, beginning April 18, 1625, and ending Oct. 3, 1626, show the following:

Aug. 2 -	51	Aug. 13 -	54
Aug. 12 -	50	Aug. 14 -	52

From June 30 1665 to Dec. 8 1666:

Sept. 11 -	125	Sept. 16 -	107
Sept. 14 -	120		

From the end of August to end of September 1666, the plague entries frequently amount to 100 daily.

During the last three years that the churchyard was used for burials (1854-6), the figures are respectively, 2633, 2021, and 2904, making a total of 7558 burials.

From June 25 to July 2, 1837, 520 Christenings took place—on June 25, 100, and on June 30, 167. The cause of this was the passing of the "Birth Registration Act," and the parishioners hastening to avail themselves of the ecclesiastical registration before the new form became compulsory.

Constitution of the Vestry

In 1735 a Committee was appointed by the Vestry to draw up a full report of its varied Constitution from the earliest date, which is so interesting that it is given, as follows:

"4 July 1735. The Day & year above written the Vestry mett and the Report made by the Comittee appd. the 8 April last was read approved of & is as followeth.

* *Memorials of Stepney Parish, edited by Hill and Frere, 4to. Guildford,* 1890-91.

† *The Marriage Registers of St. Dunstan's, Stepney, Middlesex, edited by Thomas Colyer-Ferguson. Vol. I.,* 1568-1639. *Vol. II.,* 1640-1696. *Vol. III.,* 1697-1719. *4to.*

The Comittee haveing examined the Ancient Constitution of the Vestry & doe find that from the year 1597 to 1589—wh. is 10 years—the Vestry was open. & in the year 1589 the Inhabitants of the Parish mett & did then choose a select Vestry consisting of 32 Men. 8 to Each hamlet—viz. Ratclif. Poplar. Limehouse & Mile End, and the sd. Inhabitants oblidg'd themselves to abide by what the sd. Vestry did. 12 of them with 2 of the Ch. Wardens to make a Vestry.

And in the year 1598 it appears the Vestry consisted of 40 men, wherein Bethnal Green is mentioned wth Mile End hamlet, which Vestry continued 49 years unto 1647 & from that year to the year 1654 the Justices. Parish Officers & some few of the Parishioners mett at the Vestry House & transacted the Parish Affairs, which interruption of the ancient Constitution of Select Vestry we aprehend was occasioned by the disorder & confusion of the times—but in the year 1654 the Parishioners mett in Vestry and to prevent tumultuous Meetings of the Parish did then agree & choose 50 Vestrymen—viz. 20 for Ratcliff, 10 for Poplar & Blackwall, 10 for Limehouse, & 10 for Mile End, which Select Vestry was to transact the business of the Parish so far as Vestrys have power.

In 1659 Shadwell is first mentioned as a hamlet & allowed 10 Vestrymen out of the 20 in Ratclif, & the other hamlets their Number as before mentioned. In May 1661 the Vestry consisted also of 50, & in January following the same number, and continued to the year 1662—when the Bishop's Faculty was obtained which settled the number of 44—which continued till the hamlets of Spittlefields & Wapin Stepney were made parishes in the year 1729, as alsoe the hamlet of Limehouse in the year 1730, which reduced the present number of Vestry men to 24.

It is the opinion of this Comittee that the present number of Vestrymen be encreased to 32, 40, or 50 which have been the ancient numbers chosen & allowed from time to time by the inhabitants to be a Select Vestry as appears by the report.

Wee have alsoe perused the Lease of the Vestry house & do find by the sd. Lease that the Lesees are to keep the same in Tenantable repair & pay the Rent of £26 per ann. free of all taxes.

But how far the 5 hamlets now the Parish of Stepney are bound by these covenants (the parish of Ch. Ch. Spitalfield—St Georges in the East & St Ann Limehouse) being at the time the Lease was granted hamlets & Members of the Parish and consenting to the sd. Lease as appears by their Trustees signing the same all which was submitt to the Vestry.

At the abovesd. time a debate arising whether the number of Vestrymen shd. be increased to the number of 32 or 40, it was carry'd for the number of 32—nine votes agt. eight.

The Question being put what number of Vestrymen each hamlet shd. have it was carry'd as followeth—

Ratclif - - - - -	7
Poplar & Blackwall - - -	7
Mile End Old Town - -	7
——— New —— - -	7
Bethnal Green - - -	7
	—
	32"

THE BELLS.

There is a peal of 10 bells, hung in the Belfry, inscribed as follows: *

Tenor. The late tenor, wt. 49 cwts, was given to the Priory of the Holy Trinity, Dukes Place, Aldgate, by Nicholas Chadworth, and renewed by Thomas Marson 1386, was sold with three others by Sir Thomas Audley to the Parish of St Dunstan's, Stepney, about the year 1540—recast 1602, 1764, & 1799. The late peal of 8 bells were recast into 10, by Thos. Mears & Son 1806, in the presence of George Harper, D.D., Rector; Revd. Thos. Thirlwell, Lecturer; Mr. Mattw. Easum, Robt. Turner, Wm. Wade, Wm. Thompson, Geo. Everitt, Church Wardens; Jno. Curtis, Esq.; Jno. Edwards, Esq.; Jeremh. Snow, Esq.; Ths. Paulin, Esq.; Mr. Jas. Barnfield; Wm. Simons; Mattw. Warton, Surveyor; Jno. Salter, Vestry Clerk.

Ninth. To the honour of Sir. Chas. Wager Knt., First Lord of the Admiralty 1729, Patron of the Stepney or Cockney's Feast, instituted at Ratcliff in the year 1674, and discontinued 1784. John Matthews, Esq., Treasurer, T. Mears & Sons fecit. 1806.

Eighth. To the honour of the Volunteers of the Parish of St. Dunstan, Stepney—The Ratcliff Corps commanded by John Boulcott, Esq., Major. The M.E.O.T. by Wm. Thompson, Esq., Lt. Col., Poplar & Blackwall by John Walls, Esq., Lt. Col., 1806.

Seventh. The following inscription was upon the 6th Bell of the late Peal:

Virginis Egregiar Vocor Campana Mariæ 1603
T. Mears & Son fecit, 1806

Sixth. To the pious memory of Mrs. Prisca Coborn, a liberal benefactress to the Seamen's widows of this Parish. T. Mears & Son fecit, 1806.

Fifth. (Same inscription on each bell)
Fourth. Geo. Harper, D.D., Rector. Matt. Eason, Robt. Turner, Wm.
Third. Wade, Wm. Thompson, Geo. Everitt, Ch. Wardens. T. Mears
Second. & Son, Whitechapel fecit, 1806

* *From the Stepney Parish Magazine.*

Treble. Geo. Harper, D.D., Rector. Matt. Eason, Robt. Turner, Wm. Wade, Wm. Thompson, Geo. Everitt, Ch Wardens. T. Mears & Son, of London, fecit—1806

Particulars of the Bells from the old books at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, from Messrs. Mears & Sons' old records :—

	Diameter. Ft. in.	*Weight.* Cwt. qr. lbs.
Tenor	4 $8\frac{5}{8}$	31 1 7
9th	4 $2\frac{5}{8}$	23 2 16
8th	3 $10\frac{1}{2}$	17 0 16
7th	3 $7\frac{3}{4}$	13 3 27
6th	3 $4\frac{3}{4}$	11 2 6
5th	3 1	9 0 26
4th	2 11	8 1 14
3rd	2 $9\frac{1}{2}$	7 2 12
2nd	2 $8\frac{1}{2}$	7 1 7
Treble	2 7	7 0 20
Total Cwt.		137 1 11

The Font The Font, which is generally regarded as the original one, though much restored, consists of a square bowl, the E. & W. sides of which are ornamented with arcading. The south side contains a series of maltese crosses, each in the centre of an annulet, and the north side bears intersected triangles, filled with foliage at the extremities. It is supported by a central shaft, and at the four corners by pillars of Purbeck marble, with floriated capitals. At the base is a cruciform step which is raised upon a large circular slab of black marble. This slab bears upon it the following inscription : *Presented by William Henry Hawkins, Esq.*, 1848.
Lysons refers to the font as "ancient, stands on a circular pillar, surrounded by four others of a smaller size"; it would appear, therefore, that if the present font is the original one, it has been re-chiselled and polished to such a degree in one or other of the frequent "restorations" of the Church as to effectually destroy all traces of its antiquity.

The Lectern The brass eagle lectern is modern, and has upon its base inscriptions recording the restorations of the Church in 1871-3, and 1880-1, together with the names of the respective Rectors and Churchwardens during those periods.

Seating of Church The seating in the nave and aisles is of plain oak, the sides and backs converted from the former high-backed pews. The choir stalls are also of oak.

In 1585 the Church possessed an organ given sixty years before by the bounty of John Forster (*Frere's Memorials, XIV.*) but by a resolution of the Vestry 22nd May 1585, it was ordered to be sold. "For's much as dyuers good causes & consyderac̄ons are made knowen, shewed and declared, concerning a sale to be made of the organs now standing in the Church; wee the pishoners hereunder named, are very well contented, and doe fully agree, conclude, & determyne, that the same organes now w̄thout vse, shalbee soulde by the Church Wardens now being to the vse of the parrish for as much mony as any man will geve for them."

For nearly 100 years the Church remained without an organ, but at a meeting of the Vestry September 18th, 1679, it was ordered "That from this day one shilling be taken for every one who shall dye wthin this Parish or be buried in ye Churchyard over and above the Two shillings w̄ch are now pay'd. And that the said one shilling shall be for the paying of an organist, A Blower of ye Bellows, And for repairing and beautifying the Church and organ."

And at a meeting held on March 23rd, 1680 "It was ordered that according to a Letter bearing date Aug. 21 1680 sent by the Rt. Rev. Father in God Henry Ld. Bishop of London to Mr. John Wright, Vicar of Stepney. The sexton's place being sequestered to pay the remainder of the money due to Mr. Rene Harris for the Organ. The accounts of the Profitts having been perused by Order of the Vestry There did appear upon the 2nd. Feby. last the summe of £30 12. 9. arising from the Profitts. Likewise it did appear that the sd. Mr. Harris hath received towards the summe of £350, which he was to have for the Organ the summe of £200, soe that there is yet due to Mr. Harris the summe of £150. It is ordered that the £30 received for the sd. Profitts be payd towards the sd. £150. And for the £120 which will be then due It is ordered that the Profitts of the Sextons place shall be a security for any person who will lay down the sd. summe of £120 to be repay'd with Interest."

In 1751-3 the sum of £200 was spent upon this organ in additions by John Byfield.

The case of this organ was very finely carved, supposed to be the work of Grinling Gibbons, and in a niche in the centre was placed a figure of St. Dunstan, or, as some say, St. David. This latter was taken down, and is said to have been given to a parishioner, about the year 1870.

At the restoration in 1872 it was resolved to sell this organ, which was bought by Drury Lane Theatre, and a new one, by Messrs. Bryceson of Islington, was put into the old case. This organ was improved by valuable additions during the restoration of 1899 at a cost of £700.

The great fire of October 1901 demolished this organ, with almost all its beautiful old case, and a new instrument by Messrs. Norman & Beard takes its place.

Pulpit The earliest mention of the pulpit in the Vestry minutes is of one that was made by Robert Lenton, Joyner, in 1622 (*Memorials*, *pp.* 99-102). Probably this survived until the restoration of 1848, when a new one, of oak, with a reading desk, was erected near the east end of the chancel; this in its turn was succeeded by the present pulpit at the 1886 restoration (see p. 17), which was placed on the south side of the chancel, but removed to its present position on the north side at the 1899 restoration.

Stained Glass Many of the windows in the church have been filled with stained glass during the last half-century, & therefore require no special notice here. There are no remains of earlier glass now left in the building.

Communion Plate The communion plate is of great interest, & has been fully described by Mr. Edwin Freshfield (*Communion Plate of the Parish Churches in the County of London*, 1895); and the following summary is compiled, by his kind permission, partly from this book, as well as from the 1889-90 Terrier:—2 chalices, silver gilt, bearing the date marks for 1559 and 1631 respectively; 2 patens, silver gilt, bearing date marks for 1631 and 1713 respectively; a large silver alms bason or paten and foot with date mark 1686; 2 flagons of silver dated 1676 and 1687 respectively; an alms bason or dish, silver plated, with date mark for 1686; a modern brass alms dish; a communion spoon, silver gilt, dated 1693; & a silver trowel, with ivory handle, dated 1818. There are also 4 beadle's staves, 3 being of silver, inscribed and dated $171\frac{8}{9}$, 1752, and 1784 respectively, the fourth being of plated metal and dated 1784.

Benefactions The benefactions to the parish of Stepney (with the exception of that given on the Elder monument (see p. 37) are recorded on 2 boards now fixed on the vestry walls. The inscriptions are given in full by Mr. J. T. Page in his articles on the church in the *East End News*, 1896. Several of these charities are, however, returned as "not known" in the Return made by the Endowed Charities' Commission, 1895.

Royal Arms There is a carving of the Royal Arms fixed on the nave wall above the tower arch; it bears no date. In form it is an oval shield surrounded by the motto of the Garter, and with the usual quarterings. Shield surmounted by a knight's helmet; supporters, crowned lion, and unicorn; motto, "Dieu et mon droit." The whole surmounted by royal crown and lion.

Bishops of Stepney Stepney has since 1895 given the title to a Suffragan Bishopric for the Diocese of London. The following have held the office:—

George Forrest Browne, D.D. - - -	1895*
Arthur F. Winnington-Ingram, D.D. - -	1897†
Cosmo Gordon Lang, D.D. - - - -	1901

Rectors and Vicars of Stepney In Hill and Frere's *Memorials*, *pp.* 252-256, a list of the Rectors and

* *Translated to the Bishopric of Bristol*, 1897.
† *Translated to the Bishopric of London*, 1901.

Vicars is given, beginning with William, who held the rectory in 1233, and ending with the Rev. E. Hoskyns, appointed in 1886. The latter resigned the living in 1896, being succeeded by the Rev. A. E. Dalton, M.A., the present Rector. In addition to the above lists, Colonel W. F. Prideaux has very kindly supplied the following notes concerning the early incumbents of Stepney :—

"According to Newcourt (*Repertorium*), Hennessy (*Novum Rep.*), and Hill and Frere, the earliest Rector of Stepney was William of Berkhampstead, who is called 'Master William' in a document preserved in the archives of St. Paul's, dated 1233 (Hist. MSS. *Comm.*, Ninth Report, *Appendix*, *p.* 49, *col. a*). But in another document in the same collection (*ibid.* p. 15, col. *b*). 'William, Chaplain of Stebheie' (one of the old forms of Stebenhith) is mentioned as a witness, the principal witness being Ralph de Diceto, Dean of St. Paul's between 1181 & 1203. This William therefore was performing clerical duties at Stepney at least 30 years before the date given by the authorities I have cited. He may of course be the same William as the Rector of 1233, and have had a long incumbency, but the chief point is that a chaplain implies a church or chapel, and this brings the foundation of the church at any rate into the twelfth century.

" In the archives of St. Paul's Cathedral is an award in a controversy between the Prior and Convent of Holy Trinity, London, and Master William, the Rector of Stepney, concerning the tithes of the mill of Crassenielane, situated on the borders of the parishes of St. Botolph Aldgate, and Stepney (*Hist. MSS. Commission*, *Ninth Report*, *Part I. Appendix*, *p.* 49*a*).

" In 19 Henry III. (1234) there is recorded a fine between Richard de Hecham and Roger, vicar of Stebbeye (Stepney) regarding land in Stebbeye. This Roger is not included in the ordinary lists of incumbents (*Hardy and Page*, '*Calendar of Middlesex Feet of Fines*,' i. 21).

" The archives of St. Paul's also contain an ordinance for the services to be said for the soul of Master John de Selvestone deceased in the Church of St. Dunstan, Stepney (Stilbenethe). Dated Wednesday before the feast of St. Lucy, 1302. (*Hist. MSS. Comm.*, *Ninth Report*, *Part I. App. p.* 56*a*). John de Shelveston was appointed Rector Oct. 18, 1294 (*Pat.* 22 *Edw. I. m.* 6, *quoted by Hennessy*, '*Novum Repertorium*,' *p.* 409), but his death is not elsewhere recorded.

" In 38 Edward III. (1365) there is recorded a fine between Master Richard de Saham, parson of the Church of Stebbenheth, and Adam de Sancto Ivone, citizen of London, *and* Richard de Dokeseye and Sabrina his wife, regarding premises in Brambeleye (Bromley), Stebbenheth, & Stratford (*Hardy and Page*, '*Calendar of Middlesex Feet of Fines*,' *i.* 142).

" Richard de Saham was appointed Vicar of Stepney Feb. 25, 1350-1,

and died in or about 1368. His executor was Elias de Thorp (*Hist. MSS. Comm., Ninth Report, Part I. App. p. 4 a*)."

The Rectory The Rectory originally stood near the east end of the Church, but was pulled down in 1763 (*Memorials, p. xvii*), and re-erected during the incumbency of Ralph Cawley (1759-71), near the site of the old Vicarage. The present building is probably entirely of 1846 date, the initials of the then Rector, Daniel Vawdrey, being on the dining-room fireplace. The glebe land adjoining it, of an extent of about 3 acres, was leased in 1865 for building, and 69 houses now stand on it.

The Lectureship In the year 1584 a "Lecturer" was established, elected by the parishioners and paid by them. The Vestry minutes of that date give the particulars of the election of Stephen Gosson, the first holder of the office. (*Memorials, pp.* 9-10). The Lectureship continued until 1891, the last holder being the Rev. Neville Dundas, who was elected in March 1887, and resigned Sept. 1891.

The emolument was partly by subscription, & partly from the Curates' Fund.

In conclusion, the thanks of the authors are due to those who, by reason of their knowledge of the subject so willingly offered, have materially helped in the work of compilation. To the Rector of Stepney, the Rev. Prebendary Dalton, and Colonel W. F. Prideaux, for assistance in correcting and adding to the proofs; to the Rev. W. H. Frere, Mr. W. J. Hardy, F.S.A., and others who have helped with information otherwise difficult of access; to Mr. Edwin Gunn for the plan and descriptive architectural notes of the church embodied in Chapter II., Mr. W. H. Godfrey for descriptions and drawings of the heraldry, Messrs. F. W. Reader and A. P. Wire for photographs and other help, Mrs. Ernest Godman for the etched frontispiece; and Mr. Sydney Newcombe and other members, whose names appear against their work, for drawings. The Committee's thanks are also offered to the proprietors of the *London Argus*, by whom the interesting block on plate 5 was very kindly lent for reproduction in this Monograph.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES.

The following notes, in correction or amplification of the text, have been inserted in order to make the information there given more complete :—

p. 7. The Chapel on Stepney Marsh, or Isle of Dogs. For further information concerning this, see article on "Pontefract-on-Thames," by Colonel Prideaux, in *Notes and Queries*, 9*th S. ix.* 121.

p. 9. 3rd line from top, for *present* read *eighteenth* century.

p. 23. Shield on Lady Dethick's monument. The arms blazoned are of Alex. Nevill, impaling those of his wife.

p. 26. Inscription on Gibson monument. The dates given in Strype's *Stow* are evidently misprints. N. G. died in 1540 (see *Weever's* insc. p. 27), and his wife in 1554.

p. 48. *Vestry Minutes*. Some of the volumes of daybooks of burials, baptisms, fees, &c., were seriously damaged by the 1901 fire, as they were only kept in a wooden box.

p. 52. *The Font*. Old illustrations show the font to have been of a quite different shape to that at present in the church, & state that it was *removed* in 1806. The pillars of the present font are said to be old.

p. 54. *Beadle's staves*. According to the Rector, there are at present only *two* of these in the possession of Stepney the $171\frac{8}{9}$ being the M.E.O.T., and the plated one, dated 1784.

p. 55. The surname of *Richard de Dokeseye*, who is a party to a fine of 1365, probably expresses an ancient form of the place-name which is now represented by the Isle of Dogs.

plate 3. The large slab in the nave floor, eastward of the font, should be specially noted. It is generally regarded as a part of the monument to "Henry Steward, lord Darnley," d. 1545. The inscription, which has now disappeared, is given by Weever (*Fun. Mon.*, *p.* 307, *ed.* 1767). This slab contains the matrices of numerous small shields forming a border.

Bibliography. It is not necessary, as heretofore, to give an extended list of books, &c. referred to, as full references to them will be found throughout the Monograph.

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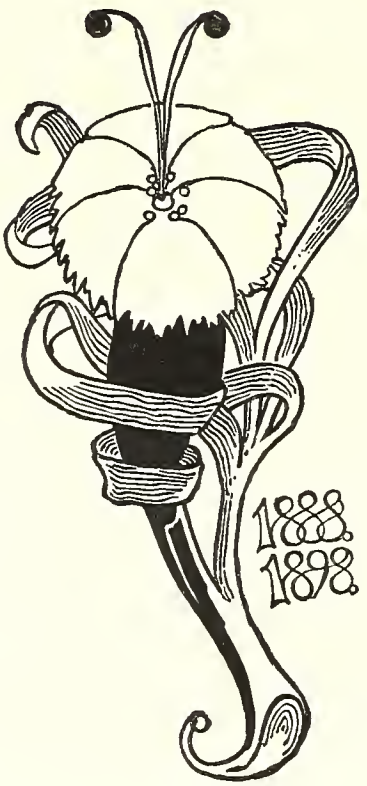
HERE ENDS THE SIXTH MONOGRAPH OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SURVEY OF THE MEMORIALS OF GREATER LONDON, ON THE CHURCH OF SAINT DUNSTAN, STEPNEY, MIDDLESEX; WRITTEN BY THE HON. WALTER C. PEPYS, WITH ADDITIONS BY ERNEST GODMAN, IN 1903-1904. WITH AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY C. R. ASHBEE, M.A. PRINTED FOR THE COMMITTEE AT THE ESSEX HOUSE PRESS, CAMPDEN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. MDCCCCV.



Published by the Committee for the Survey of the Memorials of Greater London, 37 Cheyne Walk, London, S.W.

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